FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

9 DECEMBER 1985

Iran

Velayati in Saudi Arabia — Reporting on Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's talks with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal 7-8 December, Tehran radio said Velayati told Al-Faysal that Iran does not intend to expand the war with Iraq beyond the borders of the two warring countries. "Most" of the Arab Gulf states have taken a "correct" stance on the war, he maintained, but some of them have given Iraq assistance, which has created problems and bad feeling. Stressing Iran's view that the region's security must be preserved without interference by "aggressive" foreign powers like the United States, Velayati urged the Saudis to show "sensitivity" on this issue. Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal expressed hope that Velayati's visit will result in "numerous changes" in the region, emphasized Saudi Arabia's commitment to Islamic solidarity, and stated that "no country in the region" wants to fight Iran, according to Tehran radio. Velayati also met with King Fahd, who stressed the importance of Islamic unity, the radio noted.

As for Saudi coverage of Velayati's visit, SPA reports on his talks with the king and foreign minister provided no details on statements made during the discussions, though the agency cited Al-Faysal's statement beforehand that the talks would cover regional security and the Iran-Iraq war.

Tehran Bombings — A car-bomb exploded in northern Tehran 7 December killing 2 people and wounding 18, IRNA announced. Another person was injured by a bomb explosion in a shop near the IRNA building the following day, according to the agency.

Montazeri — Tehran radio broadcast a letter from over 200 Majlis deputies to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni which endorsed the Assembly of Experts' selection of Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri as future leader of the Islamic Revolution. Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi and members of his cabinet met with Montazeri in Qom 6 December, according to the radio.

Iran-Iraq War

The Iraqi command announced new air strikes against Iran in communiques broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio over the weekend, asserting that Iraqi warplanes pounded Iranian military camps and troop concentrations, launched two raids on Khark Island, and hit another "large maritime target" near the Iranian coast. The Iraqis acknowledged that one of their aircraft was shot down over Iran. The Greek Merchant Marine Ministry confirmed that a Cypriot tanker was hit by a missile fired by an Iraqi plane late on 7 December, AFP disclosed, noting, however, that the tanker was not seriously damaged and continued its course, Athens radio subsequently disclosed.

Libya

A Libyan aircraft was recently attacked by U.S. warplanes over Crete, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi claimed in a statement reported by JANA following his arrival in Ghana 7 December. The Libyan leader stressed that Libyan planes will continue to conduct reconnaissance missions in Libyan and international airspace despite the U.S. "provocations." Tripoli radio warned of a U.S. military buildup off the Libyan coast, claiming that the United States, Egypt, and Israel have prepared a joint plan to fight Libya.

Israel

Tabah Issue — "Major progress" was made in the recent Tabah talks in Cairo, *THE JERUSALEM POST* reported, adding that the Israeli and Egyptian delegations came "very close to agreement" on the makeup of an arbitration panel and on the length of the arbitration procedure. In remarks to Alignment supporters cited by *DAVAR*, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres warned that further Likud opposition to arbitration may lead to a government crisis.

Relations With USSR — A Soviet delegate to the Israeli Communist Party (RAKAH) convention in Tel Aviv indicated that Israel's agreement to an international conference on the Middle East will not pave the way to diplomatic relations between the USSR and Israel, stressing that the Israeli-Arab territorial problems must be solved before diplomatic relations are restored, according to Jerusalem radio.

Security — The body of a murdered IDF soldier was found near Tel Aviv 5 December, Jerusalem radio disclosed. The PLO claimed responsibility for the killing in a statement broadcast by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio. The DFLP also claimed responsibility for the killing in a statement reported by Radio Monte Carlo. In other developments, Jerusalem radio announced that the IDF captured a terrorist squad composed of West Bank Arabs and also apprehended a DFLP squad attempting to enter the Galilee region from Lebanon. A DFLP communique cited by AFP acknowledged the capture of three men from the DFLP commando but claimed that the Palestinians killed two Israeli hostages in the shoot-out with the IDF.

Two convicted Jewish underground members were released from prison 6 December after receiving a presidential pardon, Jerusalem radio reported.

Egypt

Interior Minister Ahmad Rushdi revealed to Cairo's *AKHBAR AL-YAWM* that the Egyptair hijacking investigation has proven that the hijackers were all Palestinians with forged passports,

confirming that no Egyptians were involved, MENA disclosed.

Lebanon

Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri pledged to intensify his efforts to ensure the release of "all kidnapped persons" in Lebanon, particularly the kidnapped French citizens, Beirut radio reported, adding that Birri "hinted" the prisoners may be freed on Christmas Day. As for Amal's relations with the Progressive Socialist Party, Voice of Lebanon radio claimed that Birri said the National Union Front "has ended," blaming the union's failure on differences of opinion over the issues of "legitimate security, evacuees, and the coastal road." A delegation from Amal and the Lebanese Hizballah arrived in Tehran 5 December for "unity week" celebrations, Tehran radio reported.

PLO Affairs

Paris Bombings — The PLO representative in Paris condemned the two bomb attacks in French department stores 7 December, according to Paris radio, which noted that claims of responsibility on behalf of the Palestine Liberation Front, Islamic Jihad, and ASALA are considered "fanciful" by French investigators.

PLO-Jordanian Relations — Responding to U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy's statement that King Husayn is waiting for a PLO reply before determining the next step in the peace process, PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir denied that Jordan has given the PLO a deadline concerning its participation in the process, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio reported.

Tunis Headquarters — A new PLO headquarters has been built on the site of the offices bombed by Israeli planes 1 October, Amman television reported.

Jordanian-Syrian Relations

An "official source" in Amman cited by KUNA disclosed that Syrian Prime Minister 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm will visit Jordan 10 December. According to "authoritative sources," Al-Kasm will be carrying an invitation from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad for Jordan's King Husayn to visit Damascus "this month," Paris Radio Monte Carlo reported.

Sudan

SUNA announced that government troops killed nearly 400 soldiers of John Garang's Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in a 6 December battle in the Ingessana Hills, near the Ethiopian border in Blue Nile Province. The announcement followed Transitional Military Council (TMC) Chairman General 'Abd al-Rahman Siwar al-Dhahab's accusation, reported by SUNA, that Garang's forces were escalating operations in the area, causing panic among citizens in the border town of Kurmuk. An SPLA spokesman cited by the clandestine SPLA radio maintained, however, that the SPLA unit in the southern Blue Nile region has no hostile intentions and constitutes the "peace" detachment which the SPLA wishes to send to Khartoum to accompany its negotiators. The spokesman noted that the force is commanded by the SPLA deputy commander and warned that any attack on it by government troops would show that the TMC is not interested in dialogue.

Tunisia

The Tunisian General Labor Federation (UGTT) confirmed the dismissal of its General Secretary Habib Achour in an Executive Bureau statement read over Tunis radio by Achour's successor Sadok Alouch. The UGTT Administrative Board later described the move as "encouraging" but "insufficient" to meet the needs of the trade union base, Tunis radio reported, adding that the board called for "further serious steps" to clear the air in preparation for a UGTT "rectification congress."

Saudi Denial on U.S. Bases

Egyptian press allegations about the presence of U.S. bases in Saudi Arabia are "pure fabrication and totally unfounded," a Saudi official source declared in a statement cited by SPA.

OPEC

The OPEC oil ministers began their 76th ordinary conference in Geneva 7 December, OPECNA reported. The Iranian oil minister, in remarks to the Market Monitoring Committee's preliminary session cited by Tehran radio, called on OPEC to give less thought to market factors and more to "logical and constructive solutions" that would strengthen the organization's unity. The Saudi oil minister ruled out the possibility that the conference will change overall or individual production quotas, AFP revealed.

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SARC] held its first summit in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 7-8 December. The summit was attended by the heads of state or government of Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, The Maldives, Nepal, and Bhutan.

According to Dhaka radio, the summit leaders "in a 2-hour close-door session took several important decisions" including the decision to hold annual summits, with the next one in New Delhi and the 1987 summit in Thimpu, Bhutan; to establish a SARC Secretariat, with the details to be worked out by the foreign ministers; and the adoption of a SARC Charter.

According to AFP, the charter provides for "promotion of active collaboration and mutual assistance in the economic, cultural, techincal and scientific fields" as well as for "annual meetings of heads of state and government and two meetings annually of the Council of Foreign Ministers."

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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Leaders Address 7-Nation South Asian Conference

Arrivals Reported

BK061317 Dhaka Overseas Service in English
1230 GMT 6 Dec 85

[Excerpts] All heads of state and government of the SARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] member-countries arrived in Dhaka today for the summit beginning in the capital tomorrow morning. Distinguished leaders are Jigme Singye Wangchuk of Bhutan; Prime Minister of India Mr Rajiv Gandhi; Maumoon Abdul Gayoon, president of Maldives; King Birendra Bir Bikram of Nepal; Mr Ziaul Haq, president of Pakistan; and Mr Jayewardene, president of Sri Lanka. President Hussain Mohammad Ershad received the distinguished guests at the Zia International Airport which has been tastefully decorated on the occasion.

Presidents Ziaul Haq and Jayewardene are accompanied by their wives, and Queen Aishwarya Rajya Lakshmi Devi Shah accompanied the king of Nepal. They were received at the airport by Begum Raushan Ershad.

The heads of state and government are meeting at an informal consultation at Banga Bhavan this evening. The visiting leaders and their wives will be guests of honor at a dinner by President and Begum Ershad tonight.

Ershad Opens Conference

BK071458 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali
0442 GMT 7 Dec 85

[President Ershad's address to SARC summit at the national assembly conference hall in Dhaka — live in English]

[Text] Bismillahir rahmanir rahim [In the name of Allah the beneficent, the most merciful]. Your majesties, your excellencies, distinguished guests and friends, Assalamo, Alaikum [Peace be upon you]. We are met here this day for the first-ever summit of the SARC arrangement. It is an occasion grafted in time and the patient efforts of 5 years of our statesmen and diplomats, our civil servants and scientists, our research workers, and artists and ultimately our peoples, people who constitute together one-fifth of mankind, people imbued with long memories and rich culture backed by history of remarkable human achievement. These are the people's of Mahendjodaro, of Varanasi, of Moinamati, of the Tajmahal, of Lumbini, of Kandy. The area of SARC spans a vast variety of soils and climates, from the majestic Himalayas to the coral shores of the Maldives. You see the same area that has cradled successive civilizations stretching over 5,000 years of recorded history. Today it is essentially this sense of historical continuity that has brought us together in the city of Dhaka. Our people who have always stood firmly behind a common national cause are now united once again. In extending you a welcome on their behalf, let me also thank your majesties, and your excellencies, the heads of state and government for the unanimous choice of Dhaka as the venue of the first SARC summit. By your presence, this city is enriched and enhanced.

Regional cooperation is a concept born in the 20th century. At the same time, it is a concept that finds echoes in our varying traditions. Certainly, dissension and strife are a part of our past, but creative and cooperative interraction has also run through the (?trends) of our societies. It is not possible for us to disguise from our peoples historic nature of the SARC enterprise.

It is true that our countries and our peoples have emerged into freedom. But it is a freedom narrowly and legally defined. Our statesmen, our people recognized that the promise of economic independence is yet to be fulfilled. SARC symbolizes that promise, the fertile idea of regional self-reliance, regional cooperation, and regional exchange. It is a symbol of hope and expectation transmuted by reason and historical experience.

When the prime minister of India, the president of Pakistan, the president of Sri Lanka, and the representatives of the king of Bhutan visited Urir Char, that symbol found a potent and welcome expression. Even now it is transforming ways our peoples look at the world and our place in it. Even now we support joint and practical planning, relagating conflicts to the ancient scourges that afflict our peoples. Our foreign secretaries and foreign ministers have identified a number of areas of cooperation and a structure [words indistinct] for the advancement of that cooperation. This work has been done consistently with a spirit of pragmatism based on hardheaded calculation, and a sense of what is possible.

The SARC strategy is based on the clear understanding that our cooperation and our joint enterprise in no way limit each member's freedom of judgement and freedom of choice. SARC stipulates that it shall not stand in the way of bilateral and multilateral commitments and obligations. These are the strengths on which we have based our growing institutional involvement. There can be no doubt that our strategy has been a sound and fruitful one, yet the tangible cooperation achieved thus far by no means completes our agenda or exhausts the scope of our enterprise. Indeed we are on the threshold.

I am convinced that the reason SARC has captured the imagination and allegiance of our peoples is perhaps an unconscious recongnitition that it offers a historic opportunity to reshape the post-independence political cultures of our respective societies within the framework of sovereign equality and independence. SARC promises a new resonance to the political discourse of our peoples and of our times. It promises creative hope and expectation away from the [words indistinct] nationalism and parochialism of limited horizon and of limited vision.

When the late president Ziaur Rahman first gave expression to the (?embryonic) idea of SARC, he talked of a regional forum, a forum for the exchange of views, a forum for the [word indistinct] expectations, a forum of discussion and for mutual understanding. Our summit here today vindicates that original idea. It is of the highest significance that the leaders of our seven countries are meeting at the summit for a fruitful and ongoing dialogue that responds to the basic needs and urges of our peoples. Such a dialogue also serves as a fundamental framework of understanding and cooperation. It may also be useful as a framework within which we can dispel misunderstanding, suspicion, fear, and anxiety. The framework of the SARC summit as a key to regional cooperation for the interaction of the national

leaderships is bound to broaden into the interaction of our peoples.

Your majesties, excellencies, distinguished guests and friends, the world in which we live is a cruel and unforgiving one. It's a world that punishes the weak and rewards the strong. The vast international economic environment in last few years has generated an imperative for the developing countries of whom the SARC countries represent more than half in terms of population. The emphasis laid by the nonaligned summit in New Delhi on South-South cooperation has become in this context of SARC an overpowering necessity. Nowhere in the developing world as in South Asia is to be found such depths of poverty, and human misery coexisting with (?human) physical, above all, human resources and rich and fertile culture.

The global economic imperative that confronts us requires a joint and increasingly sophisticated response. This has to be based on a study of the real ways our economies interact in the world economy, an in-depth study that must be of the highest technical quality. While such studies are underway, we can begin a tentative measure of coordination, from a national position in major global economic conferences. At the same time, our specialists and our experts within and outside government must examine and recommend concrete ways to broaden regional economic cooperation and exchange. We in Bangladesh are sure that such work will build on the firm foundation, the tangible cooperation already acheived, and in the same spirit of realistic calculation characteristic of SARC. In our painstaking efforts there has been an unanimous recognition that leaders and peoples of the seven countries must forge new institutions and new modalities based on individual national experiences and inspirations. Slowly but surely this recognition is being translated into reality. The recent visit of some of the leaders of the region and their personal expressions of sympathy and solidarity with our people, the thousands that suffered and perished in Urir Char, is a new phenomena and symbolizes this emerging reality. What happened in Urir Char is no doubt nature at play in its (?destined) fury but, in a sense, it is a result of extreme deprivation, poverty, and underdevelopment that characterize many a part of our region.

At a time when each our countries can be proud of having produced a large number of scientists, scholars, physicians, and research workers, many of whom have gained international eminence and have contributed economic social progress if even in a foreign land, it is indeed unfortunate that we should continue to suffer this fate. Let the experience of Urir Char be a new resolve to collectively mobilize our scientific and technological skill to deal with our common problems of poverty and underdevelopment. Let SARC devise practical ways and means to promote these objectives. It would be unrealistic and also untrue to the SARC's experience to claim chance successes but ignore or deny that very real obtacles, political and historical, that face us.

The great French statesman, (?Jean Monnet), who is sometimes call the father of the European Economic Community, once said the human creation and birth are inevitably messy. The institutional arrangements for a periodic SARC summit is in itself a giant step forward, a step that reflects our common faith, that the rift, the pitfall, the challenges inherent in an enterprise are not beyond the resources of our leaderships walking together with courage and vision.

The presence here of their majesties and excellencies, the heads of state and government demonstrates that our people can rise to the challenges of our time. Your presence demonstrates that SARC is indeed the wave of the future. Your presence here demonstrates that SARC has come of age. I thank you. Khuda Hafiz [May God protect you]

Indian Prime Minister's Speech

BK071055 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali
0529 GMT 7 Dec 85

[Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's address in English at the SARC Summit in Dhaka — live]

[Text] Mr Chairman, majesties, presidents, excellencies, distinguished guests:

Today is an important day in the history of resurgent Asia. Seven neighbors have come together in an act of faith. The SARC is born. So this city famed for its gossamer weave, capital of golden Bangladesh, witnesses the birth of a promising institution. The South Asian region has been one of the great crucibles of human creativity. Here an indigenous civilization, whose origin streches back into an unfathomed antiquity, interacted with people and races, who poured in from distant parts of the world. Out of the intermingling of their ideas, philosophies, and ways of life, grew the noble heritage to which all our seven countries can lay claim. Through recorded history this fruitful interaction continued both within the region and with those who came from outside. We have venerated the Vedas [Hindu scriputre], Dhammapada [Buddhist scripture], the Koran, the Bible, and the Granth Sahib [Sikh scripture]. On our soil have been born saints and sages, seers and epic poets, men and women of profound wisdom who have given to the world some of its great religions and many of its deepest philosophies.

South Asia is the home of Mahendjodaro and Anuradhapura and the Taj Mahal, Patan, Kyi Chu, Mainamati, and the Mukuru mosque. Nature gave us mighty mountains, fertile plains, lush forests, mighty rivers, and bountiful oceans. We developed into one of the most advanced regions of the world — always in the forefront, sometimes ahead of everyone else. Our agriculture and our textiles, our arts and craft, our sculpture and architecture, our painting, music and dance matured into one of the greatest splendors of the world.

The world sought us out. Perilous voyages and dangerous journeys were undertaken to see something of the glory of this fabled land bounded to the north by the majestic Himalayas and on all sides by the vast ocean. And then came the dark age of imperialism. Our economies stagnated, our societies stultified, our culture turned upon themselves. We emerged from 2 centuries of colonial oppression as free, independent, equal countries. We each have our personalities, our particular characteristics, our nuances of culture and spirtuality. We vary in size. Our endowments differ. Our paths to development are our own. Our political systems are not all the same. But we are, all of us, animated by a shared spirit

of South Asia. Among our people, there is an immediate recognition and familiarity, a sense of shared values, fellow feeling, and brotherhood. It is upon this natural good will that we built.

India welcomes the diversity of our region. We affirm the sovereign equality of the seven states of South Asia. We have much to learn from one another and much to give. We have a profound faith in peaceful coexistence. We are confident we share these beliefs with all our partners in the region.

We of South Asia constitute one fifth of the world population. Cooperation amongst us constitutes cooperation within a vast segment of humanity. At the Asian Relations Conference in New Delhi in 1947 Jaweharlal Nehru declared: We meet together, we hold together, we advance together. South Asian cooperation is an important step realizing the larger Asian consciousness.

The Nonaligned Movement to which all of us belong has made the pursuit of peace, progress, prosperity, and the establishment of a new world order the centerpiece of its efforts. SARC gives practical form in our region to the declaration on collective self-reliance adopted at the New Delhi nonaligned summit.

It was at the initiative of our host country — Bangladesh — thatSouth Asian regional cooperation began taking shape 5 years ago. We have made a modest but important beginning in key areas of development. We have provided SARC with a functioning institutional base. We have dispelled the suspicions that were thought to exist and demonstrated the possibilities of mutual cooperation in our region. South Asian regional cooperation is now generating its own momentum and itself providing the impetus for further cooperation.

Today we move from only having a program of cooperation, to forming an association, a spirt of solidarity and unity of purpose has brought us together. We celebrated the completion of the initial phase and together move into the next.

Certainly, we have problems and difficulties, and these do impose constraints on us. Enduring cooperation is cooperation adapted to the realities of our condition. The model we have evolved for ourselves is a model which is in accord with our realities, our compulsions, our genius. We have not sought to melt our bilateral relationships into a common regional identity, but rather to fit South Asian cooperation into our respective foreign policies as an additional dimension. We have evolved modalities which do not allow bilateral stresses and strains to impinge on regional cooperation. Our cooperation tempers enthusiasm and pragmatism and intiative with consensus. At the same time, in the light of our experience of the recent past, we have every reason to hope that the practice of regional cooperation will have a beneficial impact on bilateral relationships.

We are living in turbulent times. The world economy remains immersed in deep crisis. International economic institutions are in disarray. The consensus on development has broken down. Multilaterialism has come under severe strain. In most developing countries growth has sharply decelerated or grounded to a standsitll. On the whole our region has weathered the crisis well. But all seven of us continue to be confronted with formidable problems of poverty, illiteracy, malnutrition, and disease. We have to overcome these problems in a highly adverse external environment. South Asian cooperation points the way to collective self-reliance. Our endeavors strengthen the forces of multilateralism and worldwide cooperation.

This summit has given rise to great expectations among our people and in the outside world. We have taken a decisive step forward in establishing the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. Its success will depend on the involvement of our people in their hundreds of millions.

The developing countries seek peace and stability to pursue their development. Prevailing tension and the continuing nuclear arms race pose a serious threat to our progress and prosperity. We must make the conscious efforts to remain outside the vortex of these tensions and conflicts. In the true spirit of nonalignment our cooperation should set an example for others.

This summit broadens the vision of South Asian cooperation. It gives a new impetus and fresh direction to our endeavor. It consolidates the institutional basis of our cooperation. Above all it fosters peaceful and good neighborly relations between our countries. We are happy to belong to this family of South Asian nations.

Gurudev Rabindranath Thakur's prayer for his country could well be the prayer for our family:

Let the earth and the water, the air and the

Fruits of my country be sweet, my God;

Let the homes and marts, the forests and fields

of my country be full, my God;

Let the promises and hopes, the deeds and

Words of my country be true, my God;

Let the lives and hearts of the sons and

Daughters of my country be one, my God.

To our chairman, President Ershad, and to the government of Bangladesh we extend our greatful thanks for the excellent arrangements they have made, and to the people of Bangladesh our gratitude for the warmth of their welcome and the generous hospitality for which they are renowned. Thank you. [Applause]

Pakistan President

BK071209 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali
0609 GMT 7 Dec 85

[Pakistan President Ziaul Haq's 7 December speech at the Dhaka SARC summit — live in English]

[Text] Bismillahir rahmanir rahim — in the name of Allah, the most beneficent, the most merciful. Alhamdo lillahi rabbil alamin, was-salato was-salamo ala khatemun nabiyeen — praise

be to Allah, lord of the world, blessing and peace upon the seal, that's the last of the prophet. Mr Chairman, majesties, excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, Assalamo 'Alaikum — peace be upon you. Mr Chairman, on my own behalf and on behalf of my delegation kindly accept our heartiest congratulations on your unanimous election as the first chairman of the SARC. May Allah bless you with success. I assure you of our prayer and our wholehearted support and assisting you with everything that we have and in every manner that we are capable of. Mr Chairman, the trust that we have imposed on you must also indicate to you your own competence, ability, and statesmanship. It must also indicate to you our urge, our desire, and our expectations from you as a chosen leader to take the SARC to the road of progress. May Allah bless you and thus all of us with success. Amen.

Mr Chairman, it's indeed a great honor for me to represent the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on this historic occasion. We are gathered here at this summit meeting to draw up a blueprint of a brighter and more hopeful future for our teeming millions constituting, as we have heard so many times this morning, one-fifth of the humanity. [applause] Our peoples in the times we live in [word indistinct] us to strengthen mutual trust and cooperation in order to accelerate the pace of progress toward the common goal of prosperity of our countries. They also call on us to create goodwill and consolidate harmony in our region and to make a collective contribution toward international peace and civility worthy of the great wisdom of our civilization. [applause]

We are deeply indebted to you, Mr Chairman, for the cordial invitation that you extended to us in your capacity as president of Bangladesh to the summit meeting and for the very warm welcome we have been accorded by you, by your government, and the generous and hospitable people of Bangladesh. It was unprecedented and the like of which is seen only rarely. I have great pleasure in extending my delegation's hearties felicitations to President Ershad for his eloquent and inspiring address which he gave before his election but which mirrored the deep commitment of Bangladesh to the lofty objective of regional cooperation. His sagacity will be a valuable asset in our deliberations. Under his able chairmanship now we are assured of a constructive and purposeful outcome. [applause] Our meeting in the capital of Bangladesh represents a tribute to the late President Ziaur Rahman for his forsight and statesmanship in recognizing the imperative of regional cooperation and for his dedicated efforts at pioneering the comity of South Asian nations. The seed sown by him has grown into a sturdy plant, thanks to the painstaking care with which it has been nurtured by the government of Bangladesh and President Ershad himself. I wish to take this opportunity to pay tribute also to the late prime minister of India, Madam Indira Gandhi. Her name will be gratefully recorded in the annals of our association for the immense contribution made by India under her preeminent leadership to the growth of South Asian cooperation. We are certain that cooperation of India would, under the leadership of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, be even of greater magnitude. I compliment Prime Minister Gandhi for his inspiring address to us all today.

Your majesties, excellencies, each and all of our seven countries can take legitimate pride in making a meaningful contribution to the concept of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation which we shall launch at this summit meeting. We can also be proud of the commendable progress that has been accomplished in the short span of 5 years since our officials held their first meeting in the capital of Sri Lanka and agreed to initiate studies to determine the feasibility and scope of cooperation in a few selected fields. Over these years, every one of our countries has played host to regional meetings at various levels. Officials of our respective technical ministries have worked together and put forward unanimously agreed suggestions for mutually beneficial programs of cooperation. The foreign secretaries have held frequent meetings to ensure smooth progress. Our foreign ministers have met four times since 1983 to provide guidance to officials and to ensure appropriate preparations for the summit meeting. The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation is thus the product of the collective efforts of all our countries and the realization of their common desire. This surely is a good augury for the future of our association.

Their majesties and excelencies, our peoples are (?heirs to) ancient civilizations, living in proximity in the same geographical region, they have intermingled and interacted over centuries. Affinities are manifest in the languages and literature, ideas and perceptions, folklore, and customs much in our hearts, and music [words indistinct] across national boundaries. We also share common problems and face similar challenges. Practically all of us in South Asia need to eradicate poverty and hunger, disease and illiteracy. We have the requisite material and human resources to address this challenge. Our peoples are resilient and enterprising, intelligent and industrious. Already in each of our countries enormous progress has been achieved. Through cooperation we can accelerate this process. Given the similar nature of our problems, we can profit greatly from one another's experience in devising methods and techniques for resolving them.

More and more contacts through regional cooperation will inevitably lead to greater understanding. This in turn will dissipate mistrust, promote goodwill, and help reduce the waste and diversion of resources to unproductive uses. This process needs, however, to be assisted and accelerated by concurrent actions in the political field. Our common commitment to the United Nations charter and the Nonaligned Movement provide a sound basis for the consolidation of good-neighborly relations. Actions in conformity with these principles will dispel doubts and remove suspicion. For confidence building, serious consideration should be given to evolving agreements at the regional level. I am convinced that it will be beneficial for us all to make a collective pledge renouncing the threat or use of force against one another. We could take steps to banish nuclear weapons. Another suggestion that could be considered at an appropriate time is a creation of a system of consultation on matters of common concern to the SARC members. Consultations at the level of experts, at the level of intellectuals can be beneficial. We briefly touched on some of these last night in our informal discussions. The discussions taken [phrase as heard] during last night in our working session and some of the ideas discussed in that meeting would in my opinion prove more useful for making the organization more effective, and if I can take a few words from President Jayewardene's thought-provoking statement last night, he said: It is the establishment of peace and stability in each of our countries and in our region as a whole which is of fundamental importance and it is this element which will enable us to create conditons for

better life for our peoples now and even better life for the next and the coming generations. The development of our countries has been retarded, to a considerable extent, by external conditions. The economic crisis and recession of the past decade have had the gravest impact on the poorest nations, including the countries of South Asia. Yet it cannot be denied that the potential benefits of participation in the world economy are greater than that of isolation from it. We have a stake in early resolution of the current impasse on the problems of world economy, especially reversing protectionist trade barriers, restoring moentary stability and resolving the debt crisis. Your majesties, excellencies, the suffering which our peoples have experienced in the past, the present pressing problems of our nations — both external and internal — and the imperatives of our interdependent age impose an obligation on all of us to utilize the opportunity of this summit to advance the goals of peace, cooperation, and harmomy among our countries. Our success in this endeavor would serve to inhibit great power rivalry and restrain their actions in South Asia and the adjacent regions of the world. The search for peace, stability, and progress in South Asia would in this way make a vital contribution to international peace and security and assist in emergence of a more equitable political and economic order in th· world. Actuated by a deep sense of solidarity in South Asian countries, acting in concert could exercise a collective influence far greater than the sum of their individual contributions. The convincing example of ASEAN in our vicinity is there for us to emulate. Now that we have taken the initial step, let us resolve that we shall not waver from the path of cooperative endeavor for the common good of our people. Conceived and born in sonar [golden] Bangladesh, being reared by a parental love of so many experienced and dedicated leaders, lying in the cradle and having the protection and strength of 1 billion loves and affections, I believe SARC must succeed and I think it will, insha Allah [God willing]. I pray to almighty Allah to bless our efforts and I draw hope and inspirations from the following words of the holy Koran: Rabbana La tuzeq qolu bana bad az hedaytena wa hablena min ladunka rahma innaka ant al-wahab. sadaqallahul azim — our lord, they say, let not our heart deviate now after thou hast guided us, but grant us mercy by thine own presence for thou art the granter of bounties without measures. God almighty has spoken the truth. I thank you. [applause]

Sri Lanka President

BK071508 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 0626 GMT 7 Dec 85

[Sri Lankan President Junius Richard Jayewardene's Speech at 7 December Dhaka SARC summit — live in English]

[Excerpts] Mr Chairman, sir. Your majesties and your excellencies, the heads of states and governments, honorable foreign ministers, distinguished foreign secretaries and delegates, ladies and gentlemen. I wish to reiterate the historic significance of this occasion though others have done so before me. Let me begin by conveying to you Sri Lanka's congratulations and very warm felicitations on your assumption of the chairmanship of this momentous meeting. We face the heavy responsibility to impart further momentum and set a steady course for our attempt in regional cooperation. My delegation and I approach this task with optimism because we have confidence in you to guide our deliberations to a successful conclusion.

Can our meeting together here help?. If so, how can we do so? Firstly, we must trust each other. India, the largest every way, larger than the all of us put together combined, can by deeds and words create the confidence among us so necessary to make a beginning. Mr Rajiv Gandhi is its chosen leader. On him we rest our hopes. He must not fail us. He cannot. Our duty is to help him to the utmost. He should tell us what each of us should do and we should respond as best as we can.

Economically, we have worked out our own development programs. It is a task of each one of us to consider what help we can give the others. In the spheres of investment and aid, trade between our countries, wherever we can exchange and train experts, there should be cooperation and help. Socially, all our countries protect our citizens, and there is no violation of human rights willingly and [as] a state policy by anyone of our governments. We should study this aspect together and remedy any defects that exist. Politically, each country has its own constitution and some have full-fledged democratic constitutions with elected heads of state, multiparty systems, freedom of speech and opposition. Others are seeking to achieve similar goals.

South Asia has been slow in organizing a regional cooperation. It is no secret that clearly identifiable historical as well as geopolitical factors have militated against regional closeness. Historical legacies of conflict, vast prevailing disparties of size and resources, different levels of development, both socioeconomic and technological, and differences of strategic perceptions stemming from these factors, these were a stumbling block. This does not mean that the need for and desirability of the necessity of our region getting together in their collective interest had not been recognized or articulated earlier. It is time that countries of our region draw strength from each other by way of enhanced trade, institutional linkages, sharing of technology, improving human resources and mutual investments.

Regional political stability and human development should have priority in regional cooperation. Regional cooperation is not a fancy intellectual exercise, divorced from mundane needs. Indeed, it is a constructive element in the development process. We all are agreed that the only way to improve the lot of our people is through development. If so, regional cooperation must be looked upon as an instrument that could help the lives of the millions who are in South Asia. All the countries in South Asia speak English. Therefore, there is a link language, and this med'um should be developed to ensure an uninterrupted program of information exchanges. Let us share knowledge together. The greater we understand each other, easy becomes the realization of our goals, There can be no successful regional cooperation without mutual confidence, without mutual trust. All our countries need stability to develop and safeguard the freedom they have.

Terrorist movements have raised their heads among several of our countries. Heads of states and governments have been assassinated and violence preached and practiced. Their leaders hide under the umbrella of racial and minority discrimination and seek separation. At the Commonwealth conference held in Delhi in 1982 [as heard]; the Goa declaration emphasized nonviolence

as a main creed of those assembled. Let us also say so more forcibly.

Sir, as I stated at the outset, we are present at the making of our collective as well individual future. This is, by any standard, historic occasion. The responsibility we face is heavy, the stakes are high, the expectations attaching to our meeting are great. We approach our task with hope and with optimism. For we believe there is a full potential of our venture comes to be realized. [sentence as heard] Its benefits will be incalculable to the welfare of our several people and countries.

Mr Chairman, I shall do no more here than convey to you our firm resolve and assurance to cooperate with and assist you in whatever way necessary to facilitate your task in guiding our deliberations to a successful conclusion. A great responsibility lies on us. Let us grasp this opportunity to fulfill that responsibility. There is no person or nation that stands in our way.

Nepalese King

BK071459 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali
0555 GMT 7 Dec 85

[Nepalese King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah address in English at the SARC Summit — live]

[Excerpts] Mr President, your majesties, your excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen:

It is indeed with great pleasure that I take this opportunity to extend to you Mr President congratulations on your election as chairman of the first conference of the heads of state or government of the countries of South Asia. With your commitment to our common cause of regional cooperation and wise counsel, I am confident that we will all move in a direction of achieving a common goal with lasting results.

Mr President, we all know that the people of South Asia constituting nearly 1 billion are crammed into a region with a relatively limited land and resources base. With the legacies of internal division, exploitation, armed domination by powers beyond us, I think, there are many challenges we face in common. The problems of basic needs remain [words indistinct] for the large segments of our people in this region. The world never has had in its recorded history such technological resources as it has today to cope with poverty and hunger on a global scale. But the gradual erosion of the collective spirit has aggravated our problems and frustrated our efforts, which is why we have agreed over the years to strengthen cooperation among ourselves in international forums on matters of common interest. The awakening of the global economic interdependence and the disillusionment with the continued deadlock in restructuring the international economic order have thrust upon us greater responsibilities for collective self-reliance and South-South cooperation on a much larger scale. Indeed, it is our firm conviction that regional cooperation can strengthen the building of a lasting edifice for peaceful cooperation through initiatives and interaction in the fields like cultural, scientific, technological, and economic spheres.

We realize that there exist among us many differences in size, situation, population, resources, and the levels of development. In a way, this diversity has been our drawback in the past. But destiny has put us together in such close proximity that no matter how hard we try to delink ourselves from each other, we cannot override the compulsions of geography nor can we ever ignore the lessons of history. It is indeed a fact of life that historically powers have played on our division to an extent that even the principles of nonalignment, which we have commonly adhered to, could come to a danger threatening the very peace stability of this region. The challenge, therefore, is whether we are able to turn our weakness into strength by resolving to reach into a principle of agreeable harmony and (?order) that phrase not for one but for all to the betterment of all our people of this region.

As the century draws to its close and as each country is thinking of a vision for the future, let this gathering be able to chart out a course of action, based not only on high ideals alone but also on common sense and realism. Let us not forget that the very objective we have been seeking in so many forums have now become more urgently than ever a common challenge to us.

While it is our common concern to preserve the independence and security of each country in the region, we have also a common commitment to promote the cause of peace and development for our people. The escalating arms race is draining world's precious resources. The world — and, above all, our region — urgently needs a new wisdom capable of striking a balance between the (word indistinct) of security and those of basic needs.

The choice for us in the region is clear. After a long winter of mistrust, coldness, and suspicion this region of South Asia certainly looks forward to a new spring giving birth, as it were, to a new era of enlightened self-interest based on a common desire to replace conflict with cooperation, to substitute discord with harmony and finally move from an attitude of self-centeredness to a widening horizen of contacts in the region in the spirit of reciprocity, give and take, live and let live.

May God grant us all such a vision and statesmanship to meet this challenge of making the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation a vibrant reality with our people for their well-being, peace, and joy. Thank you. [Applause]

Maldives President

BK080212 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali
0541 GMT 7 Dec 85

[Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom's 7 December address in English to the SARC Summit in Dhaka — live]

[Excerpts] Bismillahir rahmanir rahim [in the name of Allah, the most beneficent, the most merciful]. Mr chairman, your majesties, excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. It is with a feeling of both satisfaction and pride that I address the first summit meeting of South Asian countries. Satisfaction, because the very fact that we are assembled here is tangible evidence of our collective sense of direction and yet further evidence of our essential unity. Pride, because this occasion is proof that we do on an individual basis look beyond our own

borders and shores toward the wider good of the region, that our legitimate sense of national pride while being an intrinsic arch of our attitudes and policies can in so many crucially important areas be subordinate to the common will. This fact alone promises much for the future. [applause]

South Asia regional cooperation, is, for the Maldives, and always had been since its inception, a concept of special attraction to which we have given and will continue to give tremendous importance. Our commitment to the concept of South Asian cooperation will be total and our adherence to its ideals and objectives complete. We are confident that regional cooperation can play a major role in the social and economic development of the people of the region and in the preservation of peace and security among member states. It can also serve as a vehicle for extending friendship and cooperation between our respective countries and the outside world. We know that much will depend on the success of this meeting. Its success will in turn depend on the quality of the result which we, both singularly and collectively, bring to bear on those matters which we are to discuss here. That our resolve will be equal to those issues, I have no doubt. And that, accordingly, the message we send fo.th from Dhaka will signal to the world our con:ern and priorities, and, of greater importance still, our will and determination to see them given strength and influence in the wider international community.

We have carefully studied and identified the areas of cooperation among the seven nations of South Asia and have agreed on modalities of such cooperation. We have also evoked mechanism at various levels that can plan, implement and monitor aspects of cooperation among us. These efforts have led to the launching of the integrated plan of action in 1983 which laid a sound foundation for regional cooperation among our countries in a number of crucial areas. The Maldives is happy with the steady progress that has been achieved in the implementation of the integrated plan of action. It is our sincere hope that as a result of this meeting progress will be accelerated in attaining the goals of the plan and that the areas of cooperation will be further expanded to include other important aspects that are vital to our development.

The SARC can, Mr Chairman, be our instrument for the promotion of peace, progress and stability in this part of the world. It can also enhance our sovereignty and foster peace, freedom and social justice among member states. It will above all be a framework for the promotion of the welfare and prosperity of our people and the improvement of their quality of life. These are goals of high merit and in themselves an inspiration. Let them indeed be the [word indistinct] to our mutual progress and our common (word indistinct).

Bhutanese King

BK080244 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali
0517 GMT 7 Dec 85

[Bhutan King Jigme Singye Wangchuk's 7 December address in English to the SARC summit in Dhaka — live]

[Excerpts] Mr Chairman, distinguished heads of state and government, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. May I begin by congratulating you warmly on your unanimous election as chairman of the first summit meeting of South Asian countries.

This meeting is an occasion of a historic significance for the region, manifesting our united commitment to regional peace, cooperation, and advancement. Mr Chairman, along with the high distinction conferred upon you, the nations gathered here today have placed upon your shoulders the heavy responsibility of guiding our regional body for the next 2 years.

As we meet here over the next 2 days, we will initiate the process of building a climate of peace and cooperation in our region based on mutual understanding, goodwill, and trust. This process will not be easy given the political and strategic divergencies and asymmetries in our sizes, resources, and levels of development. On the other hand, we must bear in mind that in spite of all our heterogeneity, we are geographically one homegeneous unit, that the peoples have lived together in peace and friendship for countless centuries, and that they share many values rooted in a common past. Mr Chairman, it may neither be possible nor desirable to limit discussions in our meetings to issues of a nonpolitical nature for the political climate of our region will undoubtedly cast a long shadow over our deliberations.

In the geopolitical realities of a region, it would be unrealistic to ignore the primacy of the political factor as in the final analysis it will be the political environment of the region which will determine the shape and scope of regional cooperation in South Asia. The main obstacle is not only to overcome the psychological and emotional barriers of the past, but the fears, anxieties and apprehensions of the present.

If regional cooperation is to be enhanced, we must move away from an attitude of suspicion to one of understanding and trust. Despite major differences in political and security perceptions, we must transcend the narrow nationalism that prevails in our region due largely to historical reasons and create good-neighborly relations in which the magnanimity of the larger states will be matched by the genuine friendship of the smaller states.

Mr Chairman, in our deep concern over global military expenditure and the escalating arms race, we are heartened and encouraged bny the recent summit in Geneva between the leaders of the two superpowers. We would like to express the hope that this initiative wil gain momentum and substance through a continuous process to greater nuclear disarmament.

In our own region, it is regrettable to note that the arms race has intensified and assumed new dimensions with the increasing possibility of the development of nuclear weapons. While we stand united in our call for general and complete disarmament in the global context, it is a political reality that this ominous development in our region can be effectively resolved only through a meaningful dialogue between the countries concerned. At the same time, we are firm in our belief that SARC can and must play a decisive role in promoting better understanding within the region in order to create an atmosphere conducive to amicable settlement of differences.

The current international economic environment which has

placed severe strains on our national economies favors the regional option and greater South-South cooperation. At the same time, we must persist in our efforts to establish the new international economic order. A (? congruity) of views regarding international economics and North-South relations already exists among our countries. What is now required is coordination and harmonization of our policies on the internal economic front through our regional organzation. Once regional cooperation succeeds in producing visible economic gains and a climate of trust develops, the scope for mutually beneficial economic cooperation would expand. In this respect the establishment of an integrated program of action in nine areas of direct benefit to all our peoples is a noteworthy achievement. However, progress in establishing cooperative (? linkages) in some areas has been rather slow. I am confident that this summit meeting will provide the necessary impetus to cooperation in these areas.

The Kingdom of Bhutan has been a firm and consistent supporter of the concepts of regional cooperation from the very beginning. It is our conviction that a vital factor in this endeavor is the determined commitment and support of all our seven nations to the principles and objectives of SARC which are based on sovereign quality, peaceful coexistence and mutual benefit. The common hopes and aspirations of our people which have brought us together on this occasion can thus be fulfilled through the exercise of wisdom, vision, and political will at the summit level. We believe that it will be the personal and unwavering commitment of the leaders thremselves that will determine the outcome of the summit and the future course of regional cooperation. It is in this context that we welcome the proposal to establish the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and we pledge our full support to this body. Mr Chairman, in conclusion, I would like to express my fervent hope that future generations will find reasons to look back on this historic summit as the beginning of a new era in interstate relations in South Asia, heralding the dawn of regional peace, meaningful cooperation, genuine friendship, and mutual prosperity. I wish you all [words indistinct].

Proceedings Reported

BK071618 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 7 Dec 85

[Excerpts] The first-ever summit conference of the seven South Asian nations opened in Dhaka today with a call for foreign solidarity and unity for effective regional cooperation. All the heads of state and government of the SARC countries are taking part in the 2-day summit.

After the inaugural ceremony, the summit leaders met in a close-door session lasting over 2 hours. Briefing newsmen at the media center this evening, the conference spokesman said the leaders took a number of important decisions. The summit leaders will meet once a year, and the next summit meeting will be held in New Delhi in November next. The third summit in 1987 will be held in Thimpu, capital of Bhutan. The council of ministers consisting of the foreign ministers of the seven countries will be meeting as often as necessary, but at least twice a year. The standing committee of the foreign secretaries will also meet twice a year. The summit leaders also decided that a secretariat for the SARC would be established. The foreign ministers have been asked to work out details of the secretariat including the venue of the headquarters. The spokesman said Nepal offered the venue for the secretariat. The meeting decided that separate committees of experts should go into the question of terrorism in all its aspects and drug traficking and abuse. Another experts committee should determine the ways of negotiations with international multilateral agencies in respect of the special needs of the developing countries. Pakistan has offered to host a meeting in this connection. These two proposals accepted by the heads of state and government were put forward by Bangladesh. The meeting also took into consideration a suggestion by Pakistan that consultation should take place on setting up a women's organization to look into the special interest of women in the region. The meeting unanimously approved the emblem of the organization designed by Nepal. They also approved the charter of the organization with some changed provisions and the draft declaration to be issued tomorrow.

This afternoon, the leaders were given a civic reception in the north plaza of the Sangsad Bhavan [parliament]. All the SARC leaders, some of them accompanied by their wives and members of the delegation, attended the reception.

Ziaul Haq Concluding Speech

BK081355 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali
1030 GMT 8 Dec 85

[Address by Pakistani President Ziaul Haq to 8 December concluding session of Dhaka SARC, Summit; in English — live]

[Text] Mr Chairman, your majesties, excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, Assamalo Alaikum [peace be upon you]. In a little while, this historic first-ever summit conference of the South Asian heads of state and government will draw to an end. After 2 days of exchange of views on the problems faced by our people, we now come to the final moment of our meeting. I look back with great satisfaction to the discussions we have had and the decisions that we took during this period. We have on this momentous occasion given a clear sense of purpose and direction to our common endeavor. We have responded to the challenge of our times in a truly befitting manner.

The documents that we have signed are a major landmark in the history of regional cooperation in South Asia. They constitute a tangible manifestation of our joint resolve to improve the future of our people. The charter signed by us has [word indistinct] objectives, principles, and the manner in which we shall strive to ameliorate the social and economic conditions in our country. Similarly, the declaration that we plan to adopt articulates our collective aim to secure through joint efforts and sacrifice the blessings of prosperity and lasting peace in the region. Our orientation to conduct relations with each other on the basis of the universally accepted principles of sovereign equality of states, peaceful settlement of disputes, nonuse of force against each other, and noninterference in internal affairs is a harbinger of amity and harmonius and cooperative relations.

Affixation of our signatures to these documents is not the end of our journey. To the contrary, it marks the beginning of a new

chapter, the dawn of a new era in this region. The decisions taken by us would not only provide a solution to the problems of poverty, hunger, and disease in the region; they will also create conditions conducive to the successful completion of our respective national development plans in other spheres as well. In addition, the results of our deliberation would make a signal contribution to the consolidation of peace and stability in the area.

While the primary object of our meeting here was promotion of regional cooperation, our stay in Dhaka also provided us with the opportunity of discussing a number of bilateral matters of mutual concern. Our meetings in this respect have been most beneficial and have led to a better understanding of each other's perception on various issues. They have also contributed to the further consolidation of our personal relationship with each other.

Mr Chairman, the success of our deliberations is due in large measure to your able guidance and wise counsel, both inside and outside this conference room. With your long and varied experience, you presided over our meeting in a manner that reflected your profound qualities of statesmanship and understanding of the aspirations of the people of South Asia. I would like to extend, on behalf of my delegation and my own persoanl behalf, our gratitude and appreciation for the most warm and generous hospitality extended to us in Bangladesh. I would also like to express our appreciation for the untiring efforts of the officials of your government and the secretariat who labored with full dedication to facilitate our deliberations.

In the end, Mr Chairman, I would say the SARC has taken off. While mentioning yesterday, I stated that I really do not know whether it is the Dhaka spirit which has enlightened the SARC or whether it is the SARC spirit which has taken of Dhaka. Both are relevant, in any case. I [word indistinct] you, Mr Chairman, must thanks the people of Dhaka for the spontaneous warm and a tremendous ovation that they have given us and for the very kind hospitality which we will remember forever. With these words, I thank you, Sir. Wssalamo Alaikum Wa rehmatullahi wa barakatuhu. [Peace be upon you and also his mercies and blessings)

Gandhi Closing Address

BK081247 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali
1012 GMT 8 Dec 85

[Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi speech in English at the concluding session of SARC summit in Dhaka — live]

[Text] Mr Chairman, your majesties, excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen: We came to this summit 2 days ago with confidence wp our plans and high hopes for realizing our aims. Here in Dhaka we have witnessed the coming of a new dawn. We have experienced the warmth of the fraternity to which our billion people belong. We have emerged as a democracy of nations where each has an equal voice, where each will listen with equal respect and where conclusions are reached in unanimity through consensus and concourse. Through the charter, which the summit has adopted, we engage ourselves in making South Asia a region of peace and a heaven of harmony. We shall do so while preserving the indomitable independence of our countries and the rich diversity of our cultures.

The SARC is the world's most populous regional grouping. We have agreed on a program and schedule of work that will ingrain in us the habit of cooperation. We have given ourselves institutions which will adapt to our widening cooperation. These decisions have been arrived at with rapidity, great cordiality, and a striking unity of brotherhood. We have discovered that in seeking the destiny of South Asia we speak in the same idiom. We draw our inspiration from similar sources; our aspirations for our people have much in common. Cooperation in our region will buttress and reinforce our national development plans. Our foreign ministers will be meeting twice within the next few months and our experts even more frequently. We must demonstrate achievements in the nine areas where preparatory work has been completed. Technical work must begin in the new areas we have identified. Above all, let us involve our people in every facet of our activity. The South Asian Regional Cooperation must be a people's movement involving the hearts and minds of our people. We must be neither constricted in our ambitions nor superficial in our endeavours. As we advance, we must consolidate; enduring cooperation deepens even as it widens.

The leadership which you, Mr Chairman, have provided, has contributed greatly to our success. We have been the beneficeries of the hard work and long hours which Bangladesh has put into making such meticulous arrangements for our meeting. We have been welcomed in the city of Dhaka at this beautiful day. Every event has been organized with precision. All of us are deeply appreciative of your dedication and devotion to the high ideals of cooperation in South Asia.

All of you have done India a great honor by requesting us to host the next summit of the SARC. It is our great privilege to accept your kind invitation and to do so. We are thankful for the confidence you have reposed in us. We look forward to welcoming you in India in the autumn of 1986. As we take leave of each other, Kazi Nazrul Islam's [noted poet of Bangladesh] words ring in our ears: Ushar duare ani aghat amra aniba naya probhat amara kataba timir ratt, badhar [words indistinct] [banging the doors of dawn, we will bring a new morning. We will overcome the darkness and obstacles (?that confront us] Thank You. [applause]

Jayewardene Closing Address

BK090654 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali
1041 GMT 8 Dec 85

[Sri Lanka President Jayeardene 8 December speech in English at SARC summit closing ceremony in Dhaka —live]

[Excerpts] Yuour majesties, your excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen: For almost 4 years we have built a ship. The idea first emanated from Bangladesh. Foreign ministers, foreign secretaries, numerous officials of our countries came here carefully, laboriously, efficiently to fashion and build the ship of the South Asia regional conference. There were ideas before, but a concrete step to build it was taken in Bangladesh. We have launched that ship this weekend. We have much more work to do. We have to fashion it, we have to man it, we have to

flourish it, thus make it travel in the world, the seas around the world, face troublous time, avoid mutiny on board, and let it enter the portals of friendly harbors.

For the first time, the peoples of this region, the countries which we meet today, of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Maldives and Sri Lanka -- I am not going in any alphabetical or any order, or as it comes to my mind, nobody need take offense except Sri Lanka — we are, therefore, setting this ship afloat today. As I said, provided there is no mutiny on board — I hope not — the ship covers the troubled seas that face us and tries to enter the ports of poverty, of hunger, of unemployment, of (? illiteracy), of malnutrition, (?health), and seek to bring comfort to those who need it so badly.

I see in all our speeches we have stressed many important factors. We should take a confidence as the days go on. We should go forward — I am referring to the nations that are in this organization, to the leaders. We are meeting again next year, we are meeting again thereafter, we are meeting next year in India, and thereafter in Bhutan. Let us go forward together, hand in hand, looking neither to the right nor to the left, but marching straight on. Help those who are stretching their hands toward us (? affectionately) — the poor, the lonely and the low.

King Birendra Closing Address

BK090727 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali
1024 GMT 8 Dec 85

[Nepal's King Birendra speech at SARC summit closing ceremony in Dhaka, delivered in English — live]

[Text] Mr president, your majesties, your excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you Mr President for giving me an opportunity to express my concluding remarks. As the conference comes to a close wwth nearly all of us (? here) satisfied with what we have been able to achieve so far, I am wondering as to how posterity will judge the work we have done here in the past 2 days. Will the future generation maintain that we got off to a good start, leading into some lasting results or that we merely wasted our efforts in empty verbiage, thus cursing us for not being able to practice what we preached? I hardly need to point [this] out before this august assembly.

Therefore, how important it is to put words into deeds and turn rhetoric into reality. It gives me also enough reason to believe in realism without trying to blow the expections of our people out of proportions. Nevertheless, I feel certain that what we have achieved here is a new thinking for modus vivendi and approach as it were toward a new way of living together. Unlike the people elsewhere, we in this part of the world have been slow in giving (? help) to our ability to organize ourselves through a recognition of the fact that the other's existence and identity are just as important as our own. If we had succeeded in creating an order based under principles of mutuality in matters of common interest, we could certainly have stolen a march in progress in many fields. But providence had ordained it otherwise. As a result we lost time and suffered from the ills common to the countries of the Third World. The time has therefore come to enter into a new era of partnership among ourselves. It is in this spirit that I see the establishment of this regional association holding great promise for the future. As concrete programs move forward, it is our hope that our people will begin to enjoy the benefit from common endeavors. Since our faith in regional cooperation remains firm, we wish to assure you, Mr President, that we will contribute what we can to make the SARC a living reality.

In conclusion, I wish to thank you once again Mr President for your contribution, deft handling, and guidance without which the conference would not have been as great a success as it has. My sincere gratitude also goes to all the distinguished heads of state or government whom it has been a great honor and pleasure to work with. With God's guidance may this association flourish! Thank you.

Ershad Closes Conference

BK081500 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali
1055 GMT 8 Dec 85

[President Ershad's speech in English at the concluding session of the SARC summit in Dhaka — live]

[Excerpts] Bismillahir rahmanir rahim [In the name of Allah, the most beneficent, the most merciful], your magesties, your excellencies, heads of state and government, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, assalamo 'Alaikum. The SARC summit is about to conclude. In these few short days we have come a long way. Our meeting has deliberated on an appropriate charter of SARC. Our meeting has launched the Dhaka declaration. It has considered and assessed the world economic situation. More significantly, our meeting has been the first occasion for the intimate and fruitful interaction of the national leadership of the seven member-states. In this way the concept of the framers of the charter has been brought to fruitation.

SARC has entered the vocabulary. We have found a new and flexible language which, while respecting the sovereign equality and independence of each member-state, brings out the real ties that bind our nations to each other. I have no doubt that our meeting imparts a new political impetus, the tangible cooperation already achieved, as well as advancing the valuable work of creating new spheres of cooperation. What we have set out to do, we have done.

It remains for me now to thank your majesties, your excellencies, the heads of state and government for your warm and ready response to the invitation to grace this meeting and for your unstinted commitments to the SARC cause and the SARC process. The farsighted leadership and the practical guidance that your majesties and excellencies have given to the preparations for the meeting and your inspiring participation in it, are irreplaceable investments in the future of our organization as in the future of its member states.

Your majesties, your excellencies, distinguished heads of state and government, ladies and gentlemen, our historic summit has come to an end. As this concluding session draw to a close, I wish to warmly thank your majesties and your excellencies, the distinguished heads of state and government for being with us and for

important contribution. I now declare this first SARC summit closed. [applause]

SARC Charter Adopted

HK080606 Hong Kong AFP in English 0551 GMT 8 Dec 85

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 8 (AFP) — The charter of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SARC) approved by the seven-nation summit here has as its main objective promotion of active collaboration and mutual assistance in the economic, social, cultural, technical an scientific fields.

It seeks to promote and strengthen collective self-reliance among countries of the region, contribute to mutual trust, understanding and appreciation of one another's problems and strengthen cooperation with other developing countries and international and regional organisations with similar aims.

The member countries would also strengthen cooperation among themselves in international forums on matters of common interest, the charter said.

The charter provides for annual meetings of the heads of state and government and at least two meetings of the council of foreign ministers every year.

The council of ministers would formulate the policies of the association, review progress of cooperation in agreed fields as well as decide on new areas of cooperation.

The council would be assisted by a standing committee comprising the foreign secretaries who would monitor and coordinate programmes of cooperation, approve projects and their funding, mobilise regional and external resources and identify new areas of cooperation after appropriate studies, the charter said.

The principles of the charter mention that cooperation would be based on respect for sovereign equality, territorial integrity, political independence, non-interference in the internal affairs of other states and mutual benefit.

Such cooperation shall not be a substitute for bilateral and multilateral cooperation but shall complement them.

Cooperation shall also not be inconsistent with bilateral and multilateral obligations, according to the charter.

The charter also provides for technical committees comprising officials who will be responsible for implementation, coordination and monitoring of the programmes in the respective areas of cooperation.

The foreign ministers would consider the setting up of a SARC secretariat after deciding its venue, organisation, functions and funding modalities, according to the charter.

Among the general provisions, the charter says, decisions at all levels would be taken on the basis of unanimity and bilateral and contentious issues would be excluded from the deliberations.

The heads of government or state of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka were aware of the common problems, interests and aspirations of the peoples of South Asia and the need for joint action and enhanced cooperation within their respective political and economic systems and cultural traditions, the charter said.

They were convinced such cooperation would contribute significantly to their national and collective self-reliance, it added.

Karmal Discusses Party Work at PDPA Session

LD062302 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 5 Dec 85

[Text] The PDPA Central Committee Politburo session, chaired by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, was held.

At this Politburo session, the issue of improving the supply level and enhancing the capability and combat preparedness of the Armed Forces in particular, the DRA Army, was considered first.

The Politburo comprehensively assessed the accomplished work in the fields of supply and enhancing the level of combat readiness; improving combat activities; enhancing the level of political and professional training of armed forces personnel and the effectiveness of their activities. It issued instructions to the Ministries of Defense, Internal and State Information Services [as heard], zone headquarters, provincial party committees and organs of the state, and local power and administration, on further improving the work of military commissariats and gathering centers, and further supervising the training and education of the officers and men with the spirit of patriotism, self-sacrificing defense of the revolution, and even further raising the combat morale of the armed forces personnel.

The Politburo then assessed and considered the activities of the primary party organization of the DRA Ministry of Finance, on enhancing the role and responsibility fo the party members regarding the implementation of the party and government decisions.

The session heard the report of Hanif, secretary of the Ministry of Finance primary party organization, in the presence of Muhammad Kabir, minister of finance.

Babrak Karmal then made a reference to the positive aspects of the activities of the Ministry of Finance in enhancing the role and responsibility of the party members to implement the decisions of the party and government; to train them with revolutionary spirit and faithfulness to the aspirations of the April Revolution; and to organize them in taking active part in the task of implementing the decisions of the 16th PDPA Central Committee Plenum. He enumerated the negative aspects and shortcomings in the work of this party organization and gave the necessary instructions on enhancing the role of the effectiveness of its activities.

In order to enhance the effectiveness of the activities of primary party organizations of the ministries, state committees, and social organizations, and to further consolidate their organizational and political [activities] as well as enhance the responsibility level of the party members regarding the execution of duties, political maturity, and the struggle against defects and shortcomings, it was decided that a seminar — with the participation of the secretaries of the party committees of the ministries, state committees and social organizations — will be convened in order to improve methods and forms of their work and activities.

The Politburo charged party organizations of the ministries, state committees, and social organizations with raising the level of their activities in order to mobilize further the party members for the accomplishment of the lofty objectives of the revolution, and improving the work of government employees for the realization of the decisions of the 16th PDPA Central Committee plenum.

At this Politburo session, a series of issues regarding domestic and foreign policy were also considered.

Addresses Kabul City Party Session

LD082128 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 7 Dec 85

[Excerpts] Babrak Karmal, General Secretary of the PDPA and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, participated in a session of the Kabul city party organizations held today [7 December] at the Kabul Polytechnic Institute to discuss the realization of the decisions and resolutions of the 16th PDPA Central Committee Plenum.

The participants in this session were: Soltan Ali Keshtmand, PDPA Central Committee Politburo member and chairman of Council of Minister; Najibullah, Politburo member and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; a number of PDPA Central committee department officials and members of the DRA Council of ministers; Kabul City party committee members; executive and professional employees of the ward party committee; officials and representatives of Kabul City social organizations; representatives of revolutionary defender groups; representatives of the self-defender groups; secretaries of the party primary organizations and organization [word indistinct] party.

The work of the session started with the national anthem and then the election of the session Presidium. Zohur Razmju, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and secretary of Kabul City party committee, read the report from the Kabul City party committee executive committee on the duties of the Kabul City party organization to realize the resolutions of the 16th PDPA Central Committee.

In the second part of the session, Babrak Karmal, amid revolutionary fervor and participants' enthusiasm, made a comprehensive and direct speech drawing the attention of the Kabul City party activists their great and full of responsiblities which had been entrusted on them by party and revolution.

Babrak Karmal, at the end of his invaluable and (?knowledgeable speech, handed over a memorial PDPA Central Committee flag to the Kabul City party organization to show appreciation for the activities and heroism of the Kabul City revolutionary party Guardians. This was followed by the joy and fevor of the participants and expression of their enthusiasm with continuous applause.

Finally, the manifesto of the Kabul party session confirmed the presentation of proposals and views by the participants of the session.

The work of the session which began at 0900 ended at 1600 with the national anthem.

The proceedings of the session will be broadcast later by television and radio and published by *HAQIQAT-E ENQALAB-E SAWR*.

Afghan Delegate to UN Criticizes Walters Speech
LD071938 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 6 Dec 85

[Excerpt] At a speech in the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly, that is, the Committee for Social and Cultural Affairs, Vernon Walters — U.S. representative Vernon Walters — criticized shamelessly and mischievously the Soviet Union, Afghanistan, Cuba and other countries.

Trying to present an incorrect and opposite picture of the situation in these countries, he wanted to suggest that principles of human rights are the foundation for the existence of the United States.

His talk was seriously criticized by Muhammad Farid Zarif, permanent representative of Afghanistan at the United Nations. He said: These claims are fundamentally refuted by the criminal actions of American imperialism. He called the undeclared war of the United States against the DRA an overt violation of the freedom of people who have chosen the path of democratic change.

Fatherland Front Official on Pakistani Aggression
LD072304 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Dec 85

[Interview with Abdorrahim Hatef, chairman of the DRA national Fatherland Front Central Council by unidentified correspondent; date and place not given — live or recorded]

[Text] [Question] Esteemed Abdorrahim Hatef, chairman of the National Fatherland Front (NFF) Central Council, please tell us your view about the aggressive action of Pakistani military regime in Khyber Agency?

[Answer] All these issues have historic foundation. It is clear to you that the reaction in Pakistan and Iran is continuously interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and training bandits. They have set up training centers and given them weapons; then they export them for fratricide and sabotage. To this [words indistinct] imperialism, headed by U.S. imperialism, the Reagan administration, are accomplices who together with Pakistan play a major role in this destruction and give them unreserved assistance. Therefore, the situation around Afghanistan has been intensified very much; our government comprehensively endeavors to improve the situation around Afghanistan, to defuse tension, and to restore normalicy. [words indistinct]

On 23 and 24 Sonbula [13 and 14 September] the high assembly of the nationalities and tribes was held here in Kabul. At this jirga, it was decided that all nationalities and tribes should firmly safeguard the borders of Afghanistan and not allow aggressions to take place on DRA territory from abroad at any cost.

At this assembly, the brothers of the independent tribes were not happy about the continuing fratricide inside Afghanistan and the foreign forces meddling and carrying out armed aggressions here.

They [tribal representatives] also made pledges: In practice, the brethern of the independent tribes do not allow rebels to stay on their land, to set up bases there, or to go into Afghanistan while armed for sabotage. When they embarked on such prohibitions, the government of Ziaul Haq, who has never wanted a peaceful life in this region, dispatched troops against Khyber Agency and invaded this region with artillery and tanks that were put at their disposal by the U.S. reactionary government, U.S. imperialism.

We are brothers in history, language, traditions, customs, and Islam; Pashtuns, wherever they live, have sympathy with us in all cases and they do not want fratricide to continue here. We, also, in no way can tolerate such a (? thing) against our brethern, who became the target of Pakistani aggression.

It is possible that Ziaul Haq has some misunderstanding vis-a-vis this issue. It is also possible that he might have thought that he was able to do anything with U.S. weapons or maybe he relies too much on them.

However, today the persecuted people of Afghanistan have had enough of Ziaul Haq. They cannot bear any more and want, at any price, to [words indistinct].

Ziaul Haq [word indistinct] carries on the policy and action of the British era. They also wanted to divide tribes one by one, launched attacks on them, confronted them with misfortune one by one, and carried aggression into their land.

But at the time the British were doing this, under the British flag [words indistinct] and they passed many lands in the world. But now that Britain is run by two ladies and has only taken the Falkland Islands, which all world opinion is against. [sentence as heard]

Britain, with all the power and strength she had in her time, faced shameful defeats. She was faced with shameful defeats in the Afghan-English war 3 times. Each time she was (?shamed by tribes). but she had another policy in action and it was the policy of divide and rule, that is, to sow discord among the tribes and then rule them.

After the long experiences, after this [word indistinct] of Britain and as result of [word indistinct] administration of Ziaul Haq, the tribes now understand this and as brothers cannot accept guns and tanks raiding Khyber Agency with other tribes as spectators. Similarly, all our tribes, border tribes, have a relationship, friendship, and historical and fraternal (?connection) with the free tribes, and cannot be spectators in this issue. In this sensitive situation, [word indistinct] is playing with fire and I think if anyone starts a fire and plays with it, this person certainly will be destroyed.

This is against all the efforts that the Afghan State makes for peace in the region, and is a step toward increasing tension. In this way, all the Afghan tribes and clans, all the people of Afghanistan, and all Pashtuns far or near, wherever they are, cannot have any interest in this subject and cannot fail to (?show) their sympathy with their Khyber brothers. They also cannot think that Ziaul Haq's aim is only Khyber Agency; he gradually wants to take away the freedom of the free tribes. The tribes are now aware of this and they have close solidarity with each other. When they [the Pakistani regime] come to embark on the act of killing Islam, it is the Americanized Islam with its guns and tanks that destroys the Muslim free tribes through the despotic militaristic Pakistani regime.

Ziaul Haq wants once again to expand his military government in this case. [break in transmission]... for 8 years extended his martial law [word indistinct] and he now wants, with the spilling of Pashtun blood, to get more martial law power for himself.

I think Ziaul Haq in this idea [word indistinct] and this is such a game that possibly will bring about a big crisis in the region and all its [word indistinct] will rest on Ziaul Haq.

I, as the person responsible for the Afghan NFF — the NFF is a big Afghan, comprehensive, social organization encompassing up to 2,653 councils, especially of border regions, [word indistinct]— and I, on behalf of all of them, can say that our sympathy and solidarity is with all our Khyber brothers. They are not alone in their freedom-loving struggle. Not only are all the people of Afghanistan with them, but Pakistani [word indistinct] people who [word indistinct] from martial law and now want at any price to remove this martial law (?dominated) by the American state, from the people of Pakistan. They too are with the tribal brothers. Tribal brothers never consider themselves alone and to this their [word indistinct] solidarity is needed.

Rockets and guns cannot stand in the way of the will of the tribes. Our condolences are with them and we will extend their voice to all human society and (?guarantee our friendship with them).

Kabul Forces Seize Rebel Ammunition, Drugs

LD082059 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 530 GMT 8 Dec 85

[Text] Quoting a reliable source in the country's security forces, a BIA correspondent reports that as a result of successful operations by the country's security forces in the area around Paghman District, 24 surface-to-surface rocket shells, 15 antitank and anti-personnel mines, seven recoilless gun shells, 33 rocket launcher shells, along with their [word indistinct], 10 mortar mines, 16 boxes of DShK shells, and nine bags of explosives were seized by the country's security forces.

According to another report, as a result of successful operations by the country's security forces in the villages and areas around Kugiani District, Nangarhar province, a number of counterrevolutionary elements were crushed and 20 assorted weapons, 13 antipersonnel mines, six handgrenades, 22 recoilless gun shells, 3,900 heavy rounds of ammunition, some medicine, and 1,525 kilograms of hashish were seized by the alert security forces.

365 Join Security Forces

LD032256 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Dec 85

[Text] Recently a group of 359, previously members of the Jamiyat band, headed by Haji Amir, have joined the security forces in the area of (Ziar Khel) Adraskan district, Herat Province. They expressed their willingness for self-sacrifice for the defense of the April Revolution and revolutionary sovereignty in the country.

According to another report, recently a group of six belonging to Eslami band, along with a rocket launcher and five assorted weapons, have joined the security forces in the area of Bagram, Parvan province. They pledged to defend to the end the aims of the April Revolution.

Gandhi on Skirmishes With Pakistan, Sri Lanka

BK060946 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 6 Dec 85

[Excerpts] The prime minister has said the new education policy aims at blending the country's age-old values with modern science and technology. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was speaking at the convocation of the Vishwa Bharati University at Shantiniketan today.

Later, talking to newsmen before his departure for Guwahati, the prime minister said that border skirmishes between India and Pakistan will slow down the process of normalization between the two countries. He, however, felt that these will not cause a setback. Replying to another question, he said the Tamil United Liberation Front and the Sri Lankan Government are far apart, but evertyhing has a meeting ground. Mr Gandhi pointed out that the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SARC] is a unique forum which enables the countries of the region to improve collaboration among themselves in various fields.

Mr Gandhi has since arrived in Guwahati. From there, he will be going to Dhaka for the SARC summit beginning tomorrow.

Gandhi Meets With Ziaul Haq in Dhaka 7 Dec

BK071615 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Dec 85

[Text] Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan [political comtemporary of Mahatma Gandhi] is to visit India toward the end of this month to attend the Congress centenary celebrations. This was announced in Dhaka today following a brief meeting between Mr Rajiv Gandhi and General Ziaul Haq. President Zia who called on Mr Gandhi was accompanied by a high-level delegation. It was also confirmed that the Pakistan president will be arriving New Delhi on the 17th of this month. He will have lunch with the prime minister and then leave for Pakistan the same evening.

At today's meeting, Mr Gandhi and President Zia had an overall view of the bilateral relations. They also considered how there can be greater involvement of women in South Asian regional cooperation.

The prime minister also had a brief meeting with the Sri Lankan president, Mr Jayewardene. They discussed bilateral matters. The AIR [All India Radio] correspondent says the meetings lasted about 15 minutes each.

Returns From Dhaka, Comments

BK090323 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Dec 85

[Excerpt] The prime minister returned to New Delhi in the early hours of this morning after his 3-day visit to Dhaka to attend the SARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit. Talking to newsmen on board the Indian Air Force plane on his way back home, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said India and Bangladesh have decided to sort out issues concerning their borders bilaterally. He said the relations between the two countries have improved, especially after his visit to that country during the cyclone tragedy earlier this year.

Replying to a question, Mr Gandhi said if Pakistan produces a nuclear weapon, then India's option is open. But he made it clear that India is not taking the initiative. The prime minister pointed out that General Zia denies that Pakistan is producing a nuclear weapon but the circumstantial evidence is against it.

About the outcome of the SARC summit, Mr Gandhi said it is very good. Asked about his reaction to Sri Lanka president's observation that Mr Gandhi should take over the leadership of the SARC countries, the prime minister replied in the negative. He said there is no question of his leadership as all are equal in SARC, whether big or small. He said the mood of the seven leaders was positive at the summit. They were all eager to arrive at a solution instead of creating obstacles which could have been easily done. About the decision of the summit to set up high-level committees to go into the question of terrorism in all its aspects and drug trafficking, Mr Gandhi said it is a complex issue and its technical aspect will be looked into.

As reported earlier, the first SARC summit came to a successful conclusion in Dhaka last evening with the adoption of a charter announcing the formation of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

Prime Minister Says No Policy Shift From Socialism

BK050917 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 5 Dec 85

[Text] The prime minister has asserted that the government is not deviating from the path of socialism at all nor is there any shift toward the private sector in its industrial policy. Replying to the pointy raised by some opposition members in the Rajya Sabha today, he said we are making higher investments in the public sector but at the same time mobilizing the private sector for consolidating growth.

Gandhi Seeks People's Cooperation To End Extremism

BK050924 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 5 Dec 85

[Text] The prime minister has sought the people's cooperation, particularly from Punjab, to solve the problem of extremism. He said the extremists have no religion except the cult of violence and they should be firmly dealt with. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was inaugurating the World Punjabi Congress in New Delhi today. The prime minister stressed the need for creating an awareness among the people against violence. He said the people should help the authorities in apprehending the culprits. The prime minister said Punjab must once again break new ground in the field of development.

Referring to the recent elections in the state, he said it is a victory of the people who were fed up with violence. The prime minister said every effort should be made to inform the people, particularly those abroad, that the state is once again on the path of

peace and prosperity. All attempts to hinder this process will be effectively checked, he added. The prime minister said that the government does not want to impose a uniform culture everywhere as it will weaken the country. Every region should develop its own culture and language.

Government Determined To Stop Entry of Extremists

BK070359 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 Dec 85

[Text] The government is determined to stop the entry of extremists into Punjab and other border states. The union home minister, Mr S. B. Chavan, stated this while talking to newsmen at Calcutta airport yesterday while on his way to Guwahati from New Delhi. He, however, admitted that the extremists are still sneaking in small numbers into some states despite sealing of borders in Punjab, Rajasthan, and Gujarat. Mr Chavan denied the West Bengal Government's allegations that the center is not doing anything to prevent the entry of foreigners into the state.

Trade Protocol Signed With Romania for 1986-90

BK060335 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 6 Dec 85

[Text] India and Romania are to increase their trade to 280 crore rupees during 1986. It will be raised to 600 crore rupees by 1990. A protocol to this effect was signed between the two countries in New Delhi yesterday at the end of the meeting of the Indo-Romanian Joint Commission for Economic, Technical, and Scientific Cooperation. The protocol was signed by the commerce minister, Mr Arjun Singh, and the Romanian minister of metallurgical industry, Mr Neculai Agachi.

India will export 5 million [metric] tons of iron ore, 1.50 lakh tons of manganese ore, and 9 lakh tons of bauxite to Romania in the next 5 years.

Thorium Tested in Madras as Nuclear Fuel

BK080304 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 8 Dec 85

[Text] Experiments are being conducted at the Madras atomic power project — MAP — at Kalpakkam to determine the economic feasibility of thorium as a fuel for power reactors. A spokesman of the project told PTI in Madras that 60 kg thorium bundle loaded into the second unit of the MAP is likely to be taken out for irradiation tests some time in February or March next year.

Delhi Reports 2d Gas Leak, Officials' Arrest

BK061256 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 6 Dec 85

[Text] Oleum gas leaked again from the Shri Ram food and fertilizers industries in Najafgarh Road in Delhi this morning. According to police sources, the leakage had taken place from the manufacturing plant and it was brought under control in about half an hour. The sources described the leakage as minor, and there have been no reports of any adverse effects of the gas. The police sources also disclosed that three officials of the plant have been arrested and a case of causing (?hurt) by negligence has been registered against them. They are the general manager, Mr B.D. Sharma; the plant superintendent, Mr A.K. Sondhi; and the technical officer of the plant, Mr Vijay Pal Singh.

Ziaul Haq Comments on Upcoming Visit to India, SARC

BK061652 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Dec 85

[Excerpts] A warm and hearty welcome was accorded to President Mohammad Ziaul Haq when he arrived at Dhaka today to attend the first summit meeting of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SARC] beginning tomorrow. President Hussain Mohammad Ershad and Mrs Raushan Ershad warmly received the President and Mrs Ziaul Haq.

The king of Bhutan, Wangchuk, met President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Dhaka today.

Earlier, while talking to newsmen aboard his special plane, the president said that besides the existing bilateral trade between the SARC countries, there is also scope for increasing trade on regional basis. He said that the SARC members are already cooperating on a bilateral basis in various sectors, especially political and cultural, and what is needed now is an assessment of the scope of cooperation in the economic sphere as well. He said that promotion of political and cultural relations is imperative as a first step to improve relations among SARC countries, and expressed the hope that the possibilities of economic cooperation among member countries on a mutually benefitcial basis will be reviewed. The president said that he will present the funds collected from Pakistanis for their Bangladeshi brothers affected in the floods at a special function in Dhaka on Monday [9 December]. He said that 25.2 million rupees have been collected in the presidential fund established for this purpose.

Talking to newsmen prior to his departure at Islamabad airport, the president expressed confidence that the SARC summit will provide a concrete basis for establishing peace in the region.

Answering a question about his visit to India on the 17th of this month, the president said that this will help accelerate the process of normalizing relations between the two countries. He said that we do not have any fixed agenda for the talks. However, I will exchange views with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on bilateral relations.

Finance minister Dr Mahbubul Haq, accompanying the president, told newsmen that economic factors in the SARC countries will gradually (?flourish).

Once the heads of state and government of the organization agree in principle to assess the possibilities of economic cooperation, work in this regard will start on the committee level. He rejected the apprehensions that trade with India will adversely affect domestic industry. He also refuted that Indian merchandise will flood the Pakistani market with the start of this trade. He said that only trading of items beneficial to both countries will be allowed. In this regard, he added, Pakistan gave a list of 40 items to India and the latter is also formulating a list. The finance minister also rejected the idea that the import policy will be further liberalized and that duty will be levied on items traded between the two countries. He said that regular consulations will be held with the chambers of commerce and industry in this regard.

In a message to Indian President Giani Zail Singh while overflying Indian territory, the president said that he expects to meet the Indian leader during his coming visit to New Delhi. He said that your cooperation greatly contributes to the promotion and strengthening of good-neighborly relations between the two countries.

Senate Chairman Acting President During Zia Absence

BK061152 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 6 Dec 85

[Text] In the absense of President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, Senate Chairman Ghulam Ishaq Khan will be the acting president and Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff Rahimuddin Khan will be the acting chief martial law administrator.

Assembly Rejects 9 Amendments to Parties Bill

BK060529 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 6 Dec 85

[Excerpts] During clausewise discussion on the Political Parties Amendment Bill last night, the National Assembly rejected 9 amendments. All these amendements were pertaining to Clause 2 of the bill. Every amendment was presented by 33 members. Opposing the amendments, the minister for justice and parliamentary affairs, Iqbal Ahmed Khan, said: as stated by the Political Committee, this bill is fully in consonance with the Constitution and it should be accepted in its present form. He said it is a constitutional obligation for every political party to disclose the source of its funds. As far as the registration of political parties is concerned, in 1979 21 political parties As far as the registration of political parties is concerned, in 1979 21 political parties registered themselves. This clearly implies that they have endorsed the clause pertaining to registration. He said under the Political Parties Amendment Bill 1985, the forthcoming 1990 elections will be a model forever. Thirteen of the 33 movers of the amendments spoke on them. They contended that in producing the accounts to the election commission, the political parties will have to face unnecessary constraints. Therefore, the auditing of their accounts should be done through the chartered accountants. They also termed the clause relating to the registration of political parties as unnecessary.

When the House rejected the last amendment, the movers staged a token walkout.

Before the adjournment of the House, the minister for justice, law, and parliamentary affairs presented the interim report of the Standing Committee on the rules, regulations, and privilege in connection with the privilege motion sought by Sahabzada Noor Hassan. The House has granted 7 more days time to the Standing Committee to give a final report on this privilege motion. The House will resume its session at 0930 [0430 GMT] tomorrow.

AFP: Army Kills Several Dozen 'Deserters' in Khyber

NC071849 Paris AFP in English 1843 GMT 7 Dec 85

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 7 (AFP) — Pakistani troops carrying out a crackdown against dissident tribes in the country's northwest Khyber region killed several dozen members of a border militia who had deserted in protest at the operation, an eyewitness said today. The witness, who did not want to be identified, said about 200 members of the militia, who had family ties with some of the rebel tribes, refused to carry out orders and deserted on Wednesday, three days after the army encircled the Khyber area. Other army units opened fire with mortars on the deserters, who had gathered near the town of Jabba, in the southern Khyber, and several dozen of them were killed, the witness said.

Later on Wednesday, another clash broke out between a group of about 30 deserters and Pakistani troops, leaving a toll of one dead and one wounded on each side, the witness said.

The source was speaking in the western city of Peshawar, after two days of travelling around the Khyber, which has been sealed off by Pakistani troops.

The clampdown was ordered by Islamabad in a bid to cut down on narcotics trade and a perceived arms buildup by Afghanistan, which is seeking the support of Pakistani Khyber tribes to try and block cross-border infiltration by Afghan guerrillas.

After entering the Khyber, a semi-autonomous area, Pakistani troops singled out for destruction the homes of suspected tribal chiefs who had refused to give themselves up.

While the Pakistani Government has imposed a total news blackout on the results of the operation, the witness said 21 villages had been completely destroyed.

One of the dissident chiefs, Wali Khan Kuki Khel reportedly described the intervention as a "violation" of an agreement underwriting the autonomy of the Khyber.

The accord was laid down between the tribes and the former British authorities, and was ratified by Pakistan when the country was created in 1947, he said.

The intervention was also attacked by the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD), Pakistan's largest opposition movement.

In a statement issued in Peshawar, the MRD called for the problem to be resolved without outside interference and in line with local traditions.

Iran's Majlis Deputy Speaker on Foreign Policy

GF071225 Karachi MASHRIQ in Urdu 30 Nov 85 p 8

[Report by staff correspondent]

[Text] Karachi, 29 Nov — The deputy speaker of Iran's national assembly, Ayatollah Ebrahim, has said that Iran strongly condemns interference in the domestic affairs of any country. He said: The Iranian regime is sorry that Afghanistan has been occupied by the Soviet Union. We condemn it. He was speaking this evening at the conclusion of a 3-day seminar at the Karachi press club. The seminar was held on unity among Muslims. He added: Iran desired to keep good relations with its neighbors, especially Muslim neighbors, because this is essential and also politically desireable. He said: Anti-Islamic forces are uniting these days; then why are the Muslims not united? He said the seminar was held for this purpose only. The seminar was meant to invite Muslims throughout the world to unite. He said that representatives from various countries participated in the seminar and made it successful. He further said that the facilities provided for this seminar by the Government of Pakistan were excellent, and we thank them for it.

In answer to a question, he said: The United States was interfering in our politics for a long time, therefore, it was necessary to severe relations with it. Iran cannot have good relations with any country interfering in its internal affairs, he added. In answer to another question he said: Sunni Muslims have not been declared a minority in Iran.

Karachi on Mujahidin Operations in Afghanistan

BK090229 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 Dec 85

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, the mujahidin recently attacked military convoys and posts of the Soviet-Karmal forces in Nangarhar Province and shot down several helicopters. The mujahidin also attacked a military base in Jalalabad, killing and wounding a number of Soviet-Karmal soldiers.

SRI LANKA

Pakistani President Due, To Make Important Statement

HK090644 Hong Kong AFP in English 0626 GMT 9 Dec 85

[Text] Colombo, Dec 9 (AFP) — Pakistani President Mohammed Ziaul Haq is expected to make an important statement during a visit here which will help Sri Lanka in dealing with militant Tamil separatists, informed sources said here today.

President Ziaul is due to arrive here tomorrow for a four-day official visit.

The expected announcement would buttress Colombo's stand in dealing with escalating violence by militant Tamil separatists, the sources said. They refused to disclose further details, or the planned timing of the statement.

President Ziaul is due to have talks with President Junius Jayewardene and Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa tomorrow, and is also to attend receptions hosted by the municipal councils of Colombo and Kandy during his visit.

A section of Sri Lanka's 2.5 million strong Tamil minority have been waging a frequently bloody campaign for a separate state in the north and east of the country, complaining of discrimination by the Sinhala majority.

General Ziaul's visit may also lead to further pressure on India over Tamil militants based in that country's southern Tamil Nadu State, observers said here.

The leaders of the main militant Tamil separatist groups are operating out of Tamil Nadu, and the Colombo government has alleged that they also have operational bases and training camps there, a charge which India has denied.

Gen. Ziaul will be visiting India later this month, and observers here believe that he will urge Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to take some action against the Tamil militants in southern India.

India has been acting as mediator in peace talks between the militants and Colombo, but some of the militant groups have called off talks on a negotiated settlement and have vowed to continue their bloody campaign, which has cost at least 1,500 lives in the past two and half years.

Pakistan has already been very helpful to the Sri Lankan government in its battle against the militants, authoritative sources said here.

Two senior Pakistani military officers visited Colombo earlier this year to assess Sri Lanka's needs in military training and logistics, other informed sources said.

Since then, Sri Lanka has sent several civilians for training in Pakistan as a prelude to establishing a National Auxiliary Force (NAF) to support the armed forces against Tamil militants in times of need, they added.

About 200 such Sri Lankan officers are expected to be trained in Pakistan, and they in turn will train NAF forces in Sri Lanka, the sources said.

The NAF would be used with the home guard to defend villages and key institutions against attacks by Tamil militants.

Sri Lanka has also bought small arms and ammunition from Pakistan for its poorly-equipped armed forces, the sources added.

Gen. Ziaul is returning an official visit by Mr. Jayewardene to Pakistan in March.

The Sri Lankan president returned to Colombo today from Dhaka, where he attended the first summit of the seven-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SARC), which ended yesterday. India and Pakistan are also members.

Mr. Jayewardene was heartened by a summit decision to set up a study group to examine the problem of terrorism as it affected the security and stability of member states, informed sources said.

Ten Tamils Shot in Escape Attempt From Camp

HK061052 Hong Kong AFP in English 0935 GMT 6 Dec 85

[Text] Colombo, Dec 6 (AFP) — Ten Tamil separatists were shot dead today when they attempted to escape from an army camp in the northeast of the country, national security sources said.

The sources said that the separatists, who were all arrested recently, had been held at the Seruwila Army Camp in Trincomalee District.

They were shot dead when they tried to break out of the camp early today, they added. No further details were available.

The sources said that a full inquiry into the incident would be held.

Two Bomb Explosions in Tehran Reported

Car Bomb Kills 2

LD071134 Tehran IRNA in English 1128 GMT 7 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 7, IRNA — Two people were martyred and 18 injured in a bomb explosion at the entrance of a hospital in northern Tehran at 12:50 Saturday afternoon.

The bomb packed in an automobile went off in front of Shohada (Martyrs) Hospital, Tajrish Square, matryring a 20 year old female university student. The other has not yet been identified.

Five automobiles including one belonging to the Bangladesh Embassy were damaged severely and the driver of the embassy car was injured.

The bomb planted by agents of imperialism went off right after approval of a resolution by the United Nations General Assembly alleging Iran for having adopted harsh measures towards its opponents. [sentence as received]

'Minor' Bomb Explodes

LD081032 Tehran IRNA in English 1021 GMT 8 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran Dec 8 IRNA — One person was slightly injured and windows of three nearby shops were broken when a minor bomb exploded at neighbouring the six storey building of the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA] here Sunday morning. No damage was inflicted on the building, however.

The bomb which exploded at 11:55 hours (08:25 GMT) had been placed inside a small sports shop in the alley, which slightly injured Jahan Mulla Ali, a shopkeeper and threw some of the goods out the alley.

The injured was immediately taken to hospital and 15 minutes after the blast, firemen and bomb experts arrived at the scene to investigate the incident. Before that a group of police and other security forces were present at the site of the explosion. Some 30 minutes after the incident the firemen and the police experts left the scene and everything was normal.

The aim of this terrorist attack has not been known yet.

Kuwait Expells 72 Iranians, Confiscates Belongings

GF081423 Bushehr Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 8 Dec 85

[Text] The Government of Kuwait, continuing its acts of animosity against the Islamic Republic of Iran, over the past few days expelled 72 Iranian residents of that country. According to the Central News Unit, the deportees arrived in Bushehr and Genaveh by motor launch, through the water borders of the Persian Gulf. They had spent between 3 days and 1 month in detention and their belongings were confiscated by the Kuwaiti Government.

Majlis Speaker Delivers Tehran Friday Prayers Sermon

LD061325 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Dec 85

[Text] Our Muslim compatriots, today attended the religious-political Friday prayers ceremonies in most regions of the country. According to a Central News Unit Report, the Muslim People of Tehran also today, through their mass presence in the University of Tehran and its surrounding streets, held these religious-political ceremonies under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam Val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

According to a report by our correspondent, during today's Friday prayers ceremonies in Tehran, there were also more than 7,000 of the popular forces, comprising members of the Karbala convoys from the Provinces of Western Azarbayjan, Kordestan, Lorestan, Gilan and Tehran who were welcomed by the congregation chanting such slogans as: "The Voice of our Prayers has reached Karbala;" "O You, American Saddam, your Death is Nigh;" "We are the Imam's Army and Ready for the Uprising;" "Forward to the Front in Order to eradicate Sedition; and Husayn, Husayn is our Slogan and Our Pride is Martyrdom." On the basis of our correspondent's report, the convoy of Karbala wayfarers today marched from the Vali-ye 'Asr Square of Tehran towards the university to participate at the Friday prayers ceremonies.

In today's Friday prayers ceremonies, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, first talked about the coming OPEC session and while reviewing the history of oil exploration and tyranny of the Western countries against the oil producing countries, particularly Iran, and the policy of storing oil by the industrial and Western countries and the issue of supply and demand and the drop in oil prices, said: Unfortunately, instead of thanking Iran for causing the oil prices to increase to $36, some of the oil rich countries placed the revenue of their nation's oil sale at Iraq's disposal to fight against Iran; and instead of allocating a percentage of their oil money as aid to the Third World and poor countries, they exerted pressure on OPEC to reduce prices; and thanks to the treachery of these countries' leaders, so far the oil prices have dropped by nearly $10; and they are trying to bring back the oil producing countries to what they were previously. To work for an oil price reduction is a blatant treachery against us and the world and demonstrates their rancor against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The speaker of the Islamic Majlis added: The selfless people of Iran will put up with the reduction of their revenue from oil sales but would Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq and others be able to endure oil price reductions? They thought that by selling cheap oil, they would deliver a blow to the Islamic Republic of Iran; but they realized that should the Islamic Republic step in this direction, then its hands would be freer; and the strong market that Iran has at its disposal, will always meet its sale requirements by barter exchange. Today, the nations of the oil producing countries should realize that their leaders are betraying them.

About assisting the Third World countries, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed: By selling our oil at fair prices, we would be

able to give 1 or 2 percent of our oil output to the deprived and poor countries free of charge.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: The people of Third World countries should not be deceived by the demagogy of those who are trying to bring down oil prices, for simultaenous with the higher oil prices, the rich countries increased the price of their industrial products, but when the oil price dropped, those countries did not reduce the price of their manufactured goods.

Afterwards, the Imam's representative at the Supreme Defense Council, referred to the issue of war and while welcoming the 7,000 wayfarers of Karbala convoys from the central, western Azarbayjan, Kordestan, Lorestan and Gilan provinces, who had attended the glorious Friday prayers ceremonies in Tehran, said: We could consider these days the best in our society during the several thousand year history of Iran and we could claim that never before, in any era, have there been so many struggling, combative, and martyrdom-seeking warriors who are moving with love towards God and his sacred goal, with their life in their own hands.

While enumerating the country's victories by the combatants on battlefronts, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani reiterated: After 5 years of war, when the country's authorities inform the nation that they are needed on battlefields and when they respond with such enthusiasm, this is a true victory. And today, all venues of Friday prayers in the country are packed with the wayfarers of Karbala and Al-Najaf.

In the same connection, the spokesman of the Supreme Defence Council said: If these are the fruits of the war and if the war brings so much enthusiasm and movement in society, let the war remain in society forever! This war is exactly tracing the path of Islam for us; and if this war were to continue for 20 years and if our society were to continue the same path, our society would be organized in such a way that for many centuries its descendants would on this earth remain the messengers of God's mercy and harbingers of Allah's faith; and the enemies of Islam and arrogants are clearly afraid of this and not of a physical victory.

The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly emphasized: To us, though the capture of a piece of land or the overthrow of a taghut [satan] is a success, the main victory lies in this mobilization, readiness, enthusiastic response and this great popular movement; and we regard this movement as a worthy booty of the war and we deem it as a mark of Allah's compassion for us.

About operations and future plans of the war, the imam's representative at the Supreme Defense Council said: We have chosen our way by being in control of our nerves and policy; and we know when we should defend and when is the appropraite time for an attack; and our enemies have understood this and are trying to disrupt the balance by creating a climate of opinion and by noise and din. Whereas today, we have the choice, but not they. We are saying that the Iraqi Ba'th Party, which is a lackey of imperialism, must be removed from the regional political scene and the Iraqi nation must be allowed to chose their own fate and the lost rights of the nation of Iran should be regained.

Addressing the combatants on battlefronts and the Karbala wayfarers, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The entire front, from the most northerly point to the southernmost region, all units and the military centers should be full of people, ready for attack and familiar with the plans at their headquarters; and if Iraq were to refrain from further atrocities, we would continue our previous policy and in view of the political conditions of the war, we would perform our task at an appropriate opportunity. But should Iraq perpetrate some atrocities then our response on the fronts would commensurate with Iraq's atrocity.

In conclusion, while referring to the readiness of Karbala wayfarers, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasized: By setting up popular headquarters, we should attend to difficulties of families of the warriors and Karbala wayfarers.

'Text' of Friday Sermon

GF061430 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 6 Dec 85

["Text" of Arabic Friday sermon delivered by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Tehran Friday imam ad interim, at Tehran university on 6 December — recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Thanks be to the Almighty. Peace be upon God's prophet and upon God's pious people. In these days, the OPEC meeting is being held to discuss the plans of the oil-producing countries and oil prices. On this occasion, I believe it is essential to discuss some issues with the peoples of the OPEC countries.

When the Islamic Revolution achieved victory, Iranian oil exports, which amounted to 6 million bpd, stopped. After the victory of the revolution, the average export of Iranian oil amounted to 2 million bpd. Following this important decline in oil exports, following the international panic [instilled on the] large industrial countries as a result of the victory of the Islamic Revolution, and following the keenness of these countries to store oil, an imbalance occurred with regard to oil market supply and demand. This was in favor of the oil exporting countries. The price of oil rose from $12 a barrel to $36. Through the rise in oil prices, the oil countries restored a part of their rights tha had been continuously usurped throughout the period in which oil was exported. Under these circumstances, some of the oil-exporting countries, particularly those in the Persian Gulf region, exploited this opportunity. They thus inundated the markets with their unlimited export of oil. They deposited the oil revenues in the imperialists' banks. These countries used a part of the oil revenues, which showered over them as a result of the Islamic Revolution, to contain the revolution and to weaken the Islamic Republic of Iran; they placed the revenues at the service of the Ba'thist regime in Iraq so that this regime could turn them into arms and equipment with which to fight Islamic Iran. However, these countries were not content with this misuse of their blessings. They participated in a conspiracy to lower oil prices. Following this conspiracy, oil prices dropped in two stages in favor of imperialism. Meanwhile, the imperialists did not alter the prices of their exports in return for the generosity and friendship of the OPEC countries.

This drop in prices was profitable to the owners of capital [word indistinct]. A very simple calculation proves that the drop in oil prices was nothing but treason. If we do not remedy the existing situation, the drop in prices will continue.

Since the oil-producing countries desire to preserve their oil revenues, which they need, at their existing levels, the consequence is that if oil prices drop, these countries will be compelled to make up for this by increasing production. The increased production in turn will lead to a corresponding decrease in prices. This chain will continue until those who plunder the peoples' resources are satisfied that they have engorged all their wealth. It is surprising that the Persian Gulf states have placed their oil pipes and harbors under the discretion of Iraq to enable it to produce a quantity larger than its fixed quota. These very countries have always contravened OPEC resolutions and tried to internally strike at OPEC by exporting oil in the interest of Iraq, contrary to bases laid down by OPEC.

Is there anyone asking these countries where their interests lie and what their interests are in weakening OPEC? The Islamic Republic of Iran believes in selling oil to imperialists at a realistic price and in compensating for losses incurred to some poor countries due to price increases by granting a par of oil revenues to these countries. We believe that those trying to reduce oil prices are working in the interest of imperialists and against other people. Their donations to Third World countries are mere deceit. Take heed those capable of reasoning. "In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Say, 'He is God, the one God, the independent and besought of all. He begets not, nor is he begotten; and there is none like unto him.' [Koranic verse] Peace and God's mercy be upon you."

Velayati Departs for 3-Day Visit to Saudi Arabia

LD070819 Tehran IRNA in English 0812 GMT 7 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 7, IRNA — The Iranian Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati heading a high-ranking delegation left Tehran for Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, Saturday morning for a three-day official visit.

Speaking to IRNA prior to his departure, he said that countries of the Persian Gulf region should fight against presence of superpowers and also against those who aim at making the region unstable. "Undoubtedly", he added, "the Iraqi Government and Saddam Hussayn are the main causes of tension in the region."

On the purupsoe of his trip, he said "we will inform Saudi officials of our firm determination to continue the fight until removal of this source of tension."

Further on the Persian Gulf security, Velayati said that protection of the area's security was the responsibility of the countries of the region and these countries should fight against any factor which threatened it.

On Iran's relations with countries of the region, he added that recently southern Persian Gulf states have indicated that they attach more importance to their relations with Iran. In the light of positive moves taken by these countries, he added, we are taking positive steps. "Undoubtedly Iran establishes more friendly relations with any country which is interested in expanding its relations with us," Velayati said.

The foreign minister is visiting Saudi Arabia at the invitation of his Saudi counterpart Sa'ud al-Faysal and in reply to his visit to Iran last spring. During the visit Velayati will hold talks with senior Saudi officials.

Velayati, al-Faysal Talks

LD080920 Tehran IRNA in English 0916 GMT 8 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 8, IRNA — The Iranian foreign affairs minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, told his Saudi counterpart Sa'ud al-Faysal, in Riyadh Saturday, that the Iranian people, government and leader believe that the Iraqi-imposed war must be continued until the final victory of the Iranian forces.

In his first round of talks with the Saudi minister, Velayati further on the same subject added that the determination did not mean Iran had expansionist desires. "We have no territorial ambition even on one inch of Iraq and our Islamic belief does not allow us to occupy other's lands, let alone those of the Muslims", he stressed.

Velayati who arrived here Saturday for a three-day official visit, pointed out that in view of Iran, Iraqi people should be able to establish their desired form of government and Iran would protect Iraq and other countries of the region from foreign domination.

He further told the Saudi foreign minister that the Iranian people were displeased with the aid extended to the Iraqi aggressor regime by certain countries of the region. By the same token, he added, Iran welcomed the recent move of a number of the countries of the region towards neutrality.

"We believe that Saddam is doomed and there is no doubt about it but only hope that conditions will be as such so that we, you and other countries of the region in cooperation with each other would be able to build the future of the region," Velayati said. He further stressed that Iran attached special importance to the independence of the countries of the region, their sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Another subject raised by Velayati was the Zionist regime. He said that the experience of the past few decades show that effective means of confrontation have not been employed against the Zionist regime.

The major reason in the failure to liberate the occupied lands, was that the anti-Zionist campaign had no Islamic essence, he added. More on the same issue Velayati said that the Zionist regime which he described as "the watch-post of arrogance and imperialism" cannot be crushed through the means of modern arms. It will only be annihilated through reliance on Islamic faith and ideology, he stressed.

He further reiterated determination of the Iranian people to liberate the occupied Palestine and Qods.

Sa'ud al-Faysal told Velayati that during his trip to Tehran last spring, a thorough discussion was made on bilateral relations and regional developments. He also hoped that this round of talks would have positive effects on the developments in the region.

Velayati referred to the great significance that the Islamic Republic of Iran places on its relations with countries of the region due to long standing historical ties and common religion, Islam.

As for the crucial status of the region and its security, he said that Iran through its words and action has proved that it attached great importance to security in the region. "Therefore," he added, "all factors which helped protect the stability (in the region) must be taken into consideration and at the same time we must encounter those which are making it unstable."

Velayati stressed that Iran and most countries of the region believe that protection of the security of the region was the responsibility of these countries and no others.

The Saudi foreign minister also stressed that his government would strongly oppose any move which would pave the way for the presence of aggressor powers in the region. "There is no legitimacy in the presence of foreign forces", he said.

Faysal further reiterated that each country of the region has a special responsibility to protect it and added that in principle his country believed in Islamic solidarity and considered it the only way to confront exploiters.

Second Round Talks

LD081926 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Dec 85

[Text] The Central News Unit reports from Riyadh that the foreign affairs ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Saudi Arabia began their second round of talks in Riyadh this morning. In this session, two of Iran's Majlis deputies, a number of Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials, and experts from both countries were present and yesterday's discussions were pursued.

Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi minister of foreign affairs, in this meeting said that we consider Iran an important base for Islam in the region. We share your views that the countries of the region should participate in maintaining the security of the region. In connection with the Iran-Iraq war, he said that no country in the region wants to fight against the Islamic Republic of Iran. It is important for us and other countries of the region that Iran remain powerful.

Velayati, commenting on the situation in the region and the war imposed by Iraq on Iran, pointed to the financial, military, logistic and intelligence assistance given by some of the region's countries to the aggressive regime of Iraq. He said that despite all the help, Iraq has not won the war. However, this assistance has created bad feeling and problems in the region. He added that we do not intend to expand the war and have tried to limit it to the borders of Iran and Iraq. The Iraqi regime has tried to extend the war to other countries of the region in order to involve them as well. We think that the stance taken by most of the countries situated on the southern side of the Persian Gulf is correct since it would isolate Iraq and its expanaionist ideas.

The same report notes that in another part of his speech, Velayati reminded that when the Iraqi regime launched an act of aggression against our country, when Iraqi forces were inside our land, we were asked to agree to a cease-fire. However, the Palestinian experience has proved that aggressors only understand forceful measures, otherwise the aggressors will become hardened and more aggressive.

In connection with mutual affairs, especially the issue of oil and OPEC, Velayati said that oil is the main issue for oil producing countries and it is important to maintain the necessary cooperation among them. Unfortunately, some countries do not pay the necessary attention to this vital issue. The only competent organization in the Third World which can play a major role in the politics and economy of the region and the world will lose its importance because of this lack of attention. Some countries think of short term interests and sacrifice the long term benefits. We are opposed to those countries which exceed their production quotas or sell their oil at lower prices. Such actions deal blows to OPEC and those countries should be dealt with.

Velayati Visits Saudi Arabia, Meets King Fahd

For Saudi Arabian reportage on the visit to Saudi Arabia by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, including his meetings with King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, see the Saudi Arabia subsection of the Arab Peninsula section of the 9 December Middle East & Africa *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

Lebanese Hizballah, Amal Delegation Arrives

GF061514 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 6 Dec 85

[Text] A Lebanese Hizballah and Amal delegation arrived in Tehran on 5 December for talks with officials in the Islamic Republic of Iran. IRNA reported that a delegation member discussed the aim of this visit, Lebanon's strategic location, and the role of the Islamic forces in the struggle against international oppression and Zionism. It said: The international oppressors are trying to accomplish their imperialist goals by creating divisions among Muslims and by shaking their unity, now that the oppressors have received crushing blows from the Islamic resistance in Lebanon. He added: We have come to this holy land to represent Islamic organizational unity, which is being formed through the initiative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and to affirm the escalation of the concerted Islamic resistance against the Zionist occupationists.

Lauding the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran in achieving

unity among Muslims, another member of the delegation said: It is the Islamic resistance of the Lebanese people which is inspired by the Islamic Revolution that has defeated the Zionists in southern Lebanon and acquainted the world with the potential and capabilities of the Muslims in that country.

Group Arrives in Masshad 8 Dec

LD082319 Tehran IRNA in English 1759 GMT 8 Dec 85

[Text] Masshad, Khorassan Prov., Dec. 8, IRNA — The joint Lebanese delegation of members of Amal militia and Lebanon's Hizbollah currently visiting Iran at the invitation of the Foreign Ministry, arrived here Sunday and was welcomed by local political officials at the airport.

The delegation is to pay pilgirmage to the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS) (The eighth imam of the household of the prophet (SAW) and to meet with political and religious personalities of the province.

The delegation arrived in Tehran Thursday.

Meeting With Sheykh ol-Eslam

LD071922 Tehran IRNA in English 1831 GMT 7 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 7, IRNA — The joint Lebanese Amal-Hizballah delegation met Iran's deputy foreign minister in charge of political affairs Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam here Saturday.

In the meeting the delegates lauded Iran's support for the struggle of the Muslim people of Lebanon against the global aggressors and the Zionist regime.

The deputy minister in return called for greater Muslim unity.

The Lebanese delegation which comprises of members of Amal militia and Lebanon's Hizballah has been here since Thursday.

Deputies' Letter to Khomeyni Endorses Montazeri

LD081010 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Dec 85

[Excerpts] According to a Central News Unit Report, the plan for separating the Social Security Organization from the Health Ministry and joining it to the Ministry of Labor and Social affairs was not ratified in its first reading at today's Majlis session.

At today's open session, a letter written by more than 200 deputies to the imam of the ummah endorsing the Assembly of Experts' decision to select Grand Ayatollah Montazeri as the Islamic Revolution's future leader was read out. The text of the letter is as follows:

In the name of God the compassionate, the merciful. His excellency Grand Ayatollah Imam Khomeyni, the great leader of the Islamic Revolution. Now that the people's experts have selected Grand Ayatollah Montazeri as the future leader, in accordance with that great leader's views to strengthen the Islamic Republic system, and as endorsed by nearly an absolute majority of the people, we, the Majlis deputies, endorse the Assembly of Experts' decision, give endless thanks to the Almighty, and wish the imam a long life. We congratulate your excellency, the honorable and self-sacrificing ummah, and the people's experts for this correct and fateful decision.

Tehran Radio Comments on Human Rights Criticism

LD061738 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0400 GMT 6 Dec 85

[From the "Review of Foreign Radios" program]

[Exerpts] With an unprecedented clamor, imperialist propagandists have waged a campaign about the so-called violation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran. In this propaganda conspiracy, in which the Zionist regime and American imperialism are clearly playing the leading role, an attempt is being made to distort the features of the Islamic Revolution of Iran. This propaganda campaign, which has been waged against our country for the last 2 weeks, has been planned to coincide with the eve of Unity Week when the attention of more than 1 billion Muslims is attracted toward the Islamic Republic of Iran. The extensive dimensions of foreign propaganda, the raising of the issue of human rights in Iran by the United Nations, the European Parliament, and Amnesty International all at once show that this conspiracy has been waged according to a preplanned program, whose planners and perpetrators' sole aim is to malign and accuse the Islamic Revolution. The fact that the UN's Human Rights Commission in New York, Amnesty International in England, and the European Parliament in Brussels raised their voices in unison against the so-called violations of human rights in Iran — how can one accept that this was done through sheer coincidence.

Although Reagan's government and the Zionist regime are backing this new propaganda-psychological conspiracy against the Islamic Republic of Iran, the allegations which have been raised concerning the so-called violations of human rights in Iran are extremely feeble and amateurish. In the report which was discussed in the UN General Assembly, it was claimed that there are cases of inappropriate arrests, torture, and execution without trial and similar offences in the Islamic Republic of Iran. In the same report it has been added that this information is based on the assertions of some of the fugitive monafeqin or Baha'i spies.

The value of such reports could be judged by the fact that they present the allegations of the monafeqin as valid testimony. The important point is to discover which hands are working to bestow respectability to their anti-Iranian activities by hiding behind the UN General Assembly. In view of the fact that the American Government, the Zionist regime, and the racist regime of South Africa are the leaders of this filthy propaganda campaign, there is no doubt that the friends of those regimes raise the greatest clamor in the General Assembly. The racist enemies of the Islamic Republic of Iran are so grief-stricken as a result of the Islamic Revolution that they wish to accuse us of the worst allegations and the greatest accusations concerning the violation of the human rights in Iran.

The interesting point which can be seen in the propaganda of foreign radios is the claim that the persons who are arrested, tried, and punished in Iran have been punished due to the expression of political views or due to belonging to a particular sect or cult. Foreign propagandists are so impudent even as to assert that the members of sympathizers of the warring splinter groups have been arrested merely for the expression of their political views and not for resorting to violence.

Despite foreign propaganda, in the Islamic Republic of Iran no one has been punished for holding special religious or political views; even the heretical Bahai faction has not been persecuted as a special faction by the Islamic Republic of Iran. Only those have been the targets of the onslaught and anger of the Islamic Revolution who had spied for aliens or who, by forming military organizations [fazha-ye nezami], had waged war against the Islamic Revolution. In their statements, the monafeqin have officially admitted to the responsibility for martyring hundreds of people. These terrorist activities have included the explosion of bombs in Friday prayers, the assassination of high-ranking officials and ordinary people.

The United Nations should try to maintain its good name more than anything else and should not allow itself to become a tool in the hands of the enemies of the Islamic Revolution, or, like Amnesty International or the European Parliament, to be used for special interests or become a toy in the hands of the bullies and tyrants, and for its status to be reduced to that of Amnesty International. Amnesty International is the same organization which produced an annual report at the time of the destroyed shah about the human rights situation in Iran, and described it as very good. This lackey organization in 1348 [starting 21 March 1969] described Iran's jails as model prisons and praised the destroyed shah, while in that year the worst types of torture and executions without any justification were in progress. One committed Muslim remembers that once when the representatives of Amnesty International were visiting prisons, the prisoners presented a report about torture and execution in the shah's courts of injustice. However, those so-called representatives of Amnesty International passed on all the reports to the officials of the prisons and SAVAK causing even more difficult conditions for the prisoners.

With such a black record, Amnesty International is exposed and disgraced in our country. This organization is so dependent upon imperialist and capitalist circles that today it is regarded as an agent of pressure by the American Government. This organization is completely indifferent concerning the violation of human rights in countries which are dependent upon the White House. Only a short while ago, a Muslim clergyman in Indonesia was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment merely for delivering a sermon.

The arrogant policies of superpowers, especially America, is threatening the whole of humanity and have led to innumerable crimes. Which international organization has paid the slightest attention to it? There was a car explosion in (Be'r al-'Abd) District in Beirut, killing scores of people; it was proved that it was the work of the American espionage and terrorist activities center [Central Intelligence Agency]. Which international organization paid the slightest attention to it or followed it up?

The activities of the American Government and the multinational companies constitute a continuous violation of human rights in America and in the world. The genocide of American Indians and the crimes which were committed in Bhopal in India are examples of the true nature of that vile government. However, when did Amnesty International express its anxiety concerning those crimes? While arrogant propagandists have waged the most extensive campaign against the Islamic Republic of Iran, they should not expect any results from all the propaganda clamor that they have started. The true nature of world arrogance and the role of foreign radios and other propaganda agencies have been made quite clear to our nation.

Ministers, Guards Talk About Weapon Production

GF071038 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 26 Nov 85 p 3

[Excerpts] On the inauguration of the production line for ammunition for Kalashnikov's and T-55 tanks, set up by the faithful experts of the defense industry organization which is a department of the Ministry of Defense, Colonel Mohammad Hoseyn Jalali, the defense minister; Mohsen Rafiqdust, minister of Islamic Revolution Guards Corps; and engineer Tarkan, the managing director of the military industries organizations, talked to our correspondent about goals of expanding the industry, self-sufficiency, and future programs of the organization in supplying military equipment needed by the warriors of Islam.

The defense minister noted the start of the production line for ammunition for Kalashnikov's and T-55 tanks and said: The new production of the military industries organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran has been earmarked for the Guards Corps brothers. The production of T-55 tanks and Kalashnikov ammunition will be of great help in avoiding loss of foreign currency, and is a prime example of achieving self-sufficiency in the military industries.

Mohsen Rafiqdust, the minister of Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, refering to the new products, said: The military industries organization has a major role in supplying the needs of the warriors of Islam. Today, due to the Lord's blessings, we see positive steps in this endeavor and we pray God to give us the opportunity to take larger steps on this road in the near future. We feel that every step we take here makes our victory at the fronts more certain, since the bullet that is made in the hands of our compatriots pierces the enemy's heart better than the bullet sold to us by our enemies.

Refering to Unity Week, the minister noted the unity of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Guards Corps and its effective role and said: For some time now, we have turned the slogan, army, guards, two armies of God, into, army-guards, the army of God, since we are truely one and this makes our enemies despair. God willing, this unity will continue until full victory.

The managing director of the military industries organization, engineer Tarkan, also noted the role of the industry in furthering the goals of the Islamic Revolution and said: Our factories may

be the only ones in the world that are making weapons to establish the word justice.

He added: Currently we produce a variety of ammunitions needed at the fronts and are planning to produce two or three other items also needed at the fronts, such as ammunition for tanks we have captured, which are 122-mm and 100-mm caliber. God willing, when we reach production level, we shall officially announce this. Currently we have no problems concerning production of ammunition and also produce a variety of light weapons. One of our fundamental goals is to create an aircraft missile industry. Our brothers have recently become active in this respect. The missile industry has been active for a year. We witness new things there very day. It is a form of industry that has to advance moment by moment and reach the final goal that we expect of it. Currently our missiles are sufficient for our needs. They are a guarantee against the adventures of the enemy and aim to end their attacks against our cities. We do not consider them an offensive weapon and have armed ourselves with them in order to stop the enemy and make him realize that we are able to respond. We look at missiles as a defensive weapon.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,311

LD061711 Tehran IRNA in English 1658 GMT 6 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 6, IRNA — In a military communique released here Friday the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran says at least 10 Iraqi soldiers were killed and or wounded and their positions set ablaze in fightings along the western fronts Thursday.

The Joint Staff Communique Number 2311 says in the same areas Thursday Iran's anti-air guns repelled reconnaissance Iraqi aircraft and enemy helicopters and prevented their infiltration of the Iranian airspace.

The military communique says enemy operations on Thursday were largely limited thereby indicating apparent losses on the part of the Iraqi troops. It says Muslim combatants carried out reconnassaince operations in the western fronts Thursday, as artillery fire was raging heaviest in Mehran, Sumar, Talayeh and Zayd.

Elsewhere in Yabis and Hoseyniyeh in the southern fronts Iraqi infantrymen suffered heavy casualties, according to the communique.

Communique No 2,312

LD071533 Tehran IRNA in English 1527 GMT 7 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 7, IRNA — Iraqi troops sustained 25 casualties as Iranian artillery hit and demolished seven enemy positions in the western fronts, said a military communique released by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces here Saturday.

In its Communique Number 2312, the Command said that Iraqi amoured units were checked in Mehran of the same region and that the enemy's artillery fire was silenced in Sumar.

The communique says that Iraqi helicopters were driven from the western fronts and that the movements of Iraqi forces were under control of the Muslim combatants in Halaleh region.

Enemy patrol units intending to infiltrate Iranian positions in Nahr-e Anbar on Thursday were forced to flee.

Elsewhere, the Joint Staff says exchange of artillery fire continued between Muslim fighters of Iran and Ba'thist troops.

Iran's Gendarmerie forces defended their positions and inflicted heavy casualties and damages on the Iraqi troops along the Arvand River banks. According to the Joint Staff communique.

Abadan, Khorramshahr Shelled

GF071514 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 7 Dec 85

[Text] According to a report by the Central News Unit, during the past 24 hours the mercenaries of the Ba'thist-Zionist regime ruling over Iraq continued to shell the cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr with long-range heavy artillery. As a result of this fire, a civilian compatriot in Abadan was wounded. Both cities suffered damage.

Communique No 2,313

LD081552 Tehran IRNA in English 1542 GMT 8 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 8, IRNA — An Iraqi war plane was hit by the surface-to-air fire of Iran's Muslim combatants near the Majnun Islands at 08.33 hours (04.03 hours GMT) Sunday crashing seconds later over an area near Jofayr.

A military communique released by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran here Sunday says Iran's Muslim forces on Saturday pounded Iraqi positions throughout the southern fronts halting their logistic operations and inflicting heavy casualties on them.

In its Communique Number 2313 the Joint Staff Command says also that several Iraqi motor boats were shelled in the vicinity of Majnun Islands at 22.30 hours GMT Friday and again at 06.00 hours Saturday as they were trying to infiltrate Iranian positions in the islands.

At 18.30 hours and again at 19.20 hours GMT Friday Iran's Muslim combatants identified another convoy of Iraqi patrol boats near Jofeyr and repelled it under heavy artillery fire.

On Saturday Iran's Gendarmerie forces heavily pounded Iraqi positions across the Arvand River.

In the western fronts Saturday at least seven bunkers, as well as artillery emplacements and observation posts of the Iraqis were levelled, three of their vehicles crushed, and about 30 Iraqi

soldiers killed.

Elsewhere near Qasr-e Shirin Iran's Gendarmerie fighters pounded an Iraqi infantry division as it was trying to deploy in the area.

Meanwhile in Abadan one building was hit by an Iraqi shell from across the border Saturday and caught fire.

Communique No 2,314

LD091422 Tehran IRNA in English 1355 GMT 9 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec, [as received] IRNA — Iranian heavy artillery fire on Iraqi positions in the western fronts over the past 24 hours, killed or wounded at least 24 Iraqi troops and destroyed several bunkers, observation posts and various vehicles of the enemy, reported a military communique published by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces here Monday.

In its Communique Number 2314, the Command said that Iran's Muslim combatants opened artillery and mortar fire on enemy positions in the northwestern fronts on Sunday, killing or wounding a number of Iraqi soldiers, smashing several bunkers of the enemy and silencing their artillery.

Iraqi forces incurred substantial casualties and losses in the southern fronts over the past 24 hours when their positions, command outposts and supply routes were shelled by Iranian Muslim fighters, according to the military communique.

The communique further said that Iran's Gendarmerie forces responded to Iraqi artillery fire on Sunday, inflicting considerable casualties and damage on Iraqi troops and lessening the enemy defensive power.

Meanwhile, Iraqi artillery fire sporadically hit the cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr in Khuzestan Province over the past 24 hours which caused no damage, the communique concluded.